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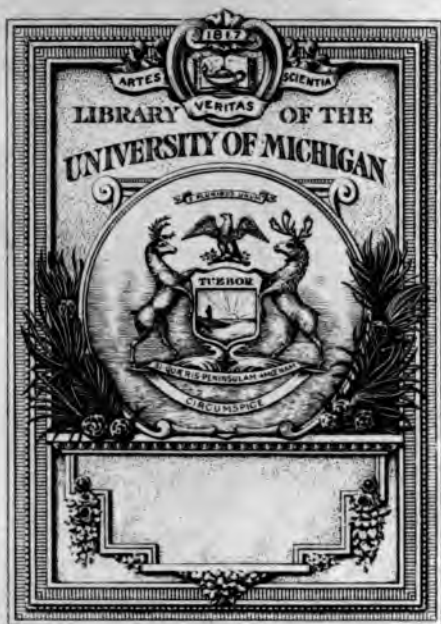
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COLLECTION OF NOVELS and TALES OF THE FAIRIES.

Written by that
Celebrated WIT of *France*,
THE
Countess *D'ANNOIS*.

IN THREE VOLUMES.

VOL. III. Containing,

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| I. The Knights Errant. | VI. The History of the magnificent Fairy, and Prince Salmafis. |
| II. The History of the Princess Zamea, and the Prince Almanzon. | VII. The History of the Fairy of Pleasures, and the cruel Amerdin. |
| III. The History of Prince Elmedorus of Granada, and the Prince Alzayda. | VIII. Florina: Or, the Fair Italian. |
| IV. The History of Zalmaida, Princess of the Canary-Islands, and the Prince of Numidia. | IX. The History of the Princess Leonice. |
| V. The History of the Prince of Mauritania, and the Princess of Castile. | X. The Tyranny of the Fairies destroy'd. |
| | XI. The History of the Princess Melicerta. |

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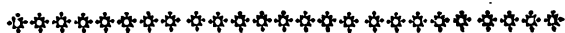
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THE
TALES
OF THE
FAIRIES.



VOL. III.



The KNIGHTS-ERRANT.



HE Night had no sooner spread her Sable Mantle over the Earth, than there arrived on the Banks of the *Tagus*, a Knight in black Armour: His Helmet was adorned with a Plume of black and white Feathers, and under his Visor, which was half-lifted up, there appeared a beautiful Face, whereon Sorrow and Grief seem'd to be painted. On his Arm he bore

VOL. III.

B

2 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

a Shield of burnish'd Steel, on which was figured a Rose-Bud broke off the Stalk, and a Pomgranate-Tree thrown down to the Ground, with this Device, *With the same Stroke.* His Horse was black as Jet, but of so stately a Carriage, that he was an Addition to the good Mein of his Master. This Knight, after having follow'd the Course of the River for some Paces, forced himself into the thickest Part of a Wood which stood on his Right-hand, and there alighting off his Horse, and giving his Helmet to his Squire, he laid himself down on the Grass to think on his Misfortunes, and how he might revenge himself on him that had been the cause of them; when he heard a Voice, which obliged him to make a Truce with his Reflections: 'Forbear, *Adelinda, said that Voice,* to persuade me to live, and seek Relief, since I can hope for none but from my Despair.'

These tender Words no sooner reach'd the Ears of our Knight, but he took his Helmet from his Squire, and went into the thickest of those Bushes, which prevented him seeing the Person who complain'd; but scarcely had he gone twenty Steps, before he perceived two Women sat on the Grass, one of which, who seem'd not to be above the Age of Fifteen, was a Beauty that could not have been exceeded in this Knight's Eyes, but by the Lady he regretted every Moment he breath'd. 'Madam, *said he,* the Complaints I have heard from your fair Mouth, give me no Room to doubt of the great Misfortunes wherewith you are oppress'd: I should think myself happy, if I could, before the End of this my miserable Life, destroy your Enemies; and to oblige you to entertain the more Confidence of my sincere Intentions, must tell you that I am *Elmedorus of Granada*, Knight of the Fatal Sword, so well known throughout all Spain, for the Love I bear the incomparable *Alzayda.*' 'Sir, *said the unknown Lady, raising herself up as soon as Elmedorus had spoke,* your Name is so much
'cele-

Princess Zamea and P. Almanzon. 3

‘ celebrated in the World, that it is enough to hear
‘ it, to be persuaded that nothing is impossible for
‘ your Arm to execute. You will pardon me, if
‘ the dreadful Misfortunes wherewith I am per-
‘ cuted, force me to accept of the generous Offers
‘ you make me ; and that you may be the better
‘ informed of my Enemies, give me leave to tell
‘ you my Adventures.’



The History of the Princess Zamea, and the Prince Almanzon.

I Am Daughter to *Zamut*, King of *Fez*, and the
Queen *Zamara* : The many Years they were
without Children, made them look upon me as a
Gift of Heaven, for whom they could not have too
great a Tenderness ; and as the People generally
follow the Examples of their Sovereigns, I became
the Delight of the whole Court. The small Stock
of Beauty I was Mistress of, and the Crown of *Fez*,
to which I was Heir, engaged most of the Princes
of *Africa* to come and lay themselves at my Feet.
They neglected nothing that might please ; the
Court of *Fez* never was so splendid before ; not a
Day passed without either Horse-Races, Tourna-
ments, or other Diversions, in which I always gave
the Prize. Among this great Number of Knights
and Princes, the Prince of *Maroc*, surnam'd the
Terrible, for his extraordinary Size and fierce Look,
was the Person for whom the King, my Father,
designed me, and to whom he promised his Con-
sent, if he could obtain mine. These flattering Pro-
mises made *Zoroaster*, which was his Name, to re-
double his Cares ; but the more Zeal he shew'd for
my Service, the more I hated him. The King
Friendship for him was a great Grief to me ;

4 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

I as often told the Queen, my Mother, from whom I concealed nothing, that I would sooner die than marry him.

At that Time *Zoroaster*, to celebrate my Birth-Day, publish'd a Tournament, and sent Challenges to all the Courts of *Spain* and *Africk*, for all Knights to come and confess the Princess of *Fez* to be the greatest Beauty in the World. So great and bold a Contempt of Princesses, adored by so many illustrious Knights, brought great Numbers to *Fez* on the Day appointed; when the King, Queen, and myself, were placed on Scaffolds built on purpose, and cover'd with Tapestries and Velvet embroider'd with Gold, with the whole Court, magnificently dress'd, at our Feet. As soon as the Judges of the Field had open'd the Rail, *Zoroaster* entered the Lists in Gold Armour beset with Emeralds; his Helmet was covered with green and rose-coloured Feathers, and on his Shield, which was the same as his Armour, he bore the Representation of a *Venus* presenting me a golden Apple, with this Devise, *To her I yield.*

After having passed by the King, and saluted us with a fierce and lofty Air, he placed himself at the End of the Career, to wait for those who would dispute the Prize with him. In less than a quarter of an Hour a Knight presented himself, whose majestick Mein drew every one's Eyes upon him; but his Arm did not correspond with his stately Carriage, for *Zoroaster* soon rid himself of that Enemy, and several others, and never doubted but he should carry the Prize, which was my Picture set round with Diamonds, when a confused Noise that was heard among the Crowd, gave us new Attention: It was occasioned by a young Knight who ask'd to enter the Lists. But, O Heavens, how fatal was that Sight to me? and what Tears has that Day cost me! That amiable Stranger's Armour was Silver enamelled with Blue, with a large Plume of blue and white Feathers on his
Helmet,

Princess Zamea and P. Almanzon. 5

Helmet; his Shield, which was the same as his Breast-Piece, in the Middle had a large Ruby shap'd like a Heart, and this Device under it, *For the Fairest*. His Horse was white as Snow, and so proud of having the most charming of Men upon his Back, that he made the Ground tremble under him. The whole Court could not but admire this handsome Stranger; and, for my part, I must confess, I never before conceived so much Trouble, nor more Joy, than when I saw him, in the second Career, throw the terrible *Zoroaster* to the Ground. Every body said he deserved the Prize; and the Judges of the Field, desiring him to dismount, led him to the King's Scaffold, who order'd me to give him my Picture; which he received after so noble a Manner, that he appeared more lovely in my Eyes.

The Tournaments being thus ended, I returned with the Queen, my Mother, to the Palace; where in the Evening, there was a fine Ball, at which all the Knights were present but *Zoroaster*, who was so bruized by his Fall, that he was forced to keep his Bed for several Days. The Stranger, whom we knew afterwards to be the Prince of *Tunis*, surnamed the Knight of the Sun, because he always bore the Figure of that bright Light on his Shield till that Day, was most magnificently dress'd, and drew on him the Eyes of the Assembly a second Time; and as he appeared to us in the Tournament the God of War, in this fine Dress we took him for the God of Love. My Heart, tho' armed with all the Pride I was Mistress of, could nor resist so many Charms, but was forced to yield to this young Hero: My Eyes made the same Impression on his Soul; for during the Ball he regarded nothing but me, and I knew with Pleasure, that the same Flame kindled in his Breast.

Several Days had passed after his Arrival, in which he never spoke to me but by tender Looks and Sighs; till one Afternoon, when none were by but my Women, he said, 'Madam, this Heart'

6 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

‘ which has been reserved till now for the Fairest,
‘ has found at last what it has sought: The Princess
‘ *Zamea* cannot have Rivals who dare dispute with
‘ her the Prize of Beauty; but I have reason to
‘ fear lest this poor Present should be refused,
‘ which will make me the most Unfortunate of all
‘ Men! It is so agreeable, replied I, smiling, to
‘ obtain the glorious Prize you offer, that you had
‘ no need to fear being rejected. ‘ If I am so happy,
‘ reply’d Almanzon, as to have my Vows and Passion
‘ receiv’d, I swear, my Princess, that never Knight
‘ shall love with more Constancy, and that I will
‘ employ every Moment of my Life, to shew my
‘ Acknowledgment.’ The not rejecting your Ho-
‘ mage reply’d I, in a serious Air, is not accepting
‘ your Love: Princesses, like me, cannot receive a
‘ Knight, but who is presented to them by those who
‘ have a Right of disposing of them; you must merit
‘ their Choice, without expecting any more from
‘ me than a blind Obedience to their Commands.
‘ I ask your Pardon, Madam, answer’d Almanzon,
‘ for explaining your Words too favourably; I
‘ ought to have known, that so charming a Con-
‘ fession merited, at least, Years of Pain and Mis-
‘ ery.’ Sir, answer’d I, rising to go to the Queen,
‘ who had sent for me, to tell you, to engage the
‘ King to bid me receive you, is sufficient to inform
‘ you I should be glad of that Permission; and if that
‘ is not enough to make you happy, ’tis at least all
‘ I can do for you.

I then was so nigh the Queen’s Apartment
‘ when I spoke, that *Almanzon* could answer me but
‘ by a low Bow he made in letting go my Hand.
‘ I went into the Queen’s Closet, with so great a
‘ Disorder in my Face, that she might have per-
‘ ceiv’d it easily, but that the News she had to tell
‘ me, troubled her too much to observe me. ‘ *Zamea*,
‘ said she, the King, notwithstanding all I could
‘ say, orders me to prepare you to marry the Prince
‘ of *Maroc* within eight Days: He has given his

Princess Zamea and P. Almanzon. 7

‘ Word, and every Thing is making ready to consummate that fatal Marriage.’ Judge, generous Knight, that if I fear’d this Marriage when I had no Grounds for my Aversion, how great my Despair was, at a Time when my Heart could find none but *Almanzon* worthy of my Tenderness. I made my Grief no Secret to the Queen my Mother, who sigh’d along with me, and told me she could not prevail with my Father, but that I must resolve to obey him. After these cruel Words I retired to my own Apartment, and sent *Adelinda* to tell the Prince of *Tunis* the News ; and that he might do what he thought fit to preserve me for his Love. That Knight, overcome with Passion, went to the King, and declared his Love for me : *Zamut* received him very graciously, but told him he had given his word to *Zoroaster*, and could not receive the Honour he intended him. When *Adelinda* return’d with this shocking Answer, it increased my Sorrows ; I pass’d the Night in bewailing my Fate, and in the Morning was informed that the Prince of *Tunis*, having challenged his Rival, after a long and bloody Duel, had wounded *Zoroaster* dangerously, and disarm’d him ; that himself got a little Hurt in his Shoulder, and was retired a small Distance from *Fez* ; that the King had taken a great deal of Care of Prince *Maroc*, and was so enraged against *Almanzon*, that he had sent to forbid him the Court.

At this melancholy Account I fell in the Arms of my Women in a Swoon : The Queen, inform’d of this Accident, run to me, and by her Tears and Cries brought me to Life again ; and at the same Time had herself like to have fallen down in the same Condition , to see me so miserable. Soon after *Zamut* came into my Chamber, and finding me all in Tears, said, ‘ I won’t believe but *Zoroaster*’s Wounds are the Cause of this your Grief; for it cannot enter into my Thoughts that you shou’d be so ill acquainted with your Duty, and my Will, as to shed those Tears for the Prince of *Tunis*. Heaven will

8 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

' will restore us the Prince of *Maroc*, whom I will
' have you marry before the other leaves this King-
' dom, to punish him for the Trouble his fatal Va-
' lour has given us.' After these cruel Words the
King left me and the Queen, who stay'd the rest
of the Day to comfort me. In the Evening she sent
privately to the Prince *Almanzon*, to know how he
did; at the same Time I sent him a Compliment.
That Prince, charm'd with the Queen's Goodness,
writ to her, to beg leave to come to the Palace the
next Day disguised, since his Wound was but slight.
The Queen consented, with the Design to persuade
him to leave the Kingdom, for fear *Zoroaster* should
have him assassinated.

Almanzon came at the Hour appointed. We inform-
ed him, (after a Quarter of a Hour, which we
spent in complaining of our hard Fortune,) that an
Inchanter, a Friend of the Prince of *Maroc's*, had
perfectly heal'd his Wounds; but that the King,
fearing a second Duel, had set a Guard upon him
till he should be married, which was to be within
three Days. After that the Queen, without giving
him Time to reply, told him, That if he had any
regard for me, he ought to leave *Fez*, and not ex-
pose me to the mortal Chagrin of being the Cause
of his Death. ' Madam, *answer'd Almanzon*, if the
' Princess consents to marry my Rival, I shall do
' what you advise me, not to preserve my Life, but
' to put an End to it, where her Eyes may not be
' Witnesses of it.' ' I will never consent, *replyed I*,
' to marry *Zoroaster*; yet you will not be the more
' happy, since I cannot bestow myself on you with-
' out the King and Queen's Consent.' ' But if
' *Zamut*, *said he*, shall force you to this Marriage,
' how will you prevent it?' ' By Death, *cry'd I*, if
' Tears cannot prevail.' ' Ah! Madam, *said he to*
' *the Queen, kneeling*, what Mischiefs may you pre-
' vent? If you would give me Leave to carry off this
' charming Princess, I promise, upon the Word of
' a Knight, that I will place the Crown of *Tunis*
' upon

Princess Zamea and P. Almanzon. 9

‘ upon her Head, as soon as we shall arrive there ;
‘ and to have, all my Life, an entire Obedience to
‘ your Commands.’ The Queen, amazed at so bold a
Proposal, at first refused it with Anger, but at last
was affected by our Tears. *Almanzon* was ready to
die for Joy at the Change of our Fortunes ; and
after having protested to the Queen that she never
should have cause to repent of her Kindness, retired
to prepare every Thing for our Departure.

The next Day he came at the Hour appointed,
when it was with no small Grief that I parted from
so good a Princess and Mother ; but Love prevailing
o’er Nature, I followed *Almanzon*, attended only by
Adelinda. At the Gate of the Palace we found the
Prince’s Squire with Horses, which we mounted,
and passed through the Kingdom of *Fez* without
any remarkable Adventure ; when one Day, going
thro’ a dark Forest, we heard some body complaining,
in the thickest Part of the Wood, whither *Almanzon*
rid, and saw a beautiful Woman, who seemed very
much afflicted : ‘ Generous Knight, said she, as soon
‘ as she discerned him, come and deliver a Princess
‘ out of the Hands of a monstrous Giant, who keeps
‘ her a Prisoner in a Castle a Mile off, where she
‘ endures the most insupportable Torments ; the
‘ the Gods have reserved this terrible Adventure for
‘ your Arm, and the magnificent Fairy foretold it.’
Just as this Woman finished these last Words, I came
up to them, and did all I could to dissuade *Alman-*
zon from this Enterprize ; but the Desire of gaining
a Victory prevailed over my Intreaties ; he desired
me to stay a little, and went along with that Wo-
man : I followed, notwithstanding, and saw as soon
as he was over the Ditches that surrounded this
Castle, the Bridges draw up, the Gates open, and
that unhappy Prince go in with that strange Wo-
man, and then shut again. Never Grief equalled
mine, when I saw *Almanzon* no more ; I call’d him
all the remaining Day, and all Night long, but all
in vain, for neither Tears nor Cries were heard.

10 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

all that *Adelinda* and the Prince's Squire could say, could not induce me to leave that fatal Place, till in the Morning I saw a Knight who told me I should find no End to mine and *Almanzon's* Misfortunes, but on the Banks of the River *Tagus*; and after these Words disappeared. I follow'd his Advice, and left that fatal Castle, where I left all that could make me desire Life, to come hither. I have been here this Year, without having seen any thing like the Execution of that Stranger's Promise: Would to Heaven, generous Knight, you were the Person reserv'd for this Adventure. 'Whether I am, or not, *reply'd Elmedorus*, I shall not fail to attempt it, when you shall desire me; and should think myself too happy, charming *Zamea*, if I could restore to you so accomplish'd a Prince, who is so deserving of your Tendernefs!' 'Tomorrow Morning, *reply'd the Princess of Fez*, I will carry you to the Place of the miserable *Almanzon's* Abode; but for to Night, go along with me, and take a slight Refreshment, and a little Rest, in a Hut which I have made my Palace since the Loss of my dear Prince.' *Elmedorus* durst not refuse *Zamea*, and for the first Time since the Death of *Azayda*, lay in a Bed, where his mortal Sorrows gave him no Respire, but kept him awake till the Morning; when ashamed to find himself in a Bed, he got up, put on his Armour, and being inform'd that the Princess *Zamea* was ready, he went and help'd her to mount her Horse. They travelled all that Day without bating; but as their Horses, could not hold out answerable to the Impatience of the Riders, they stopp'd in a pleasant Meadow, water'd by a purling Brook; but had not been there an Hour, before they perceived a Knight, whom *Zamea* knew to be *Zoroaster*. The Fear of falling into his Power made her shriek out, which *Elmedorus* asking the Reason of, and the Princess naming the terrible Knight, he immediately mounted his Horse and taking his Helmet and Lance from his Squi-

Princess Zamea and P. Almanzon. 11

went to meet the Prince of *Maroc*, who was making towards the beautiful *Zamea*. ‘ Knight, said *Elmedorus*, I come to tell you, you no longer deserve that Name, since you use Force to possess a Princess who loves you not.’ ‘ Who are you, answer’d the proud *Zoroaster*, who take the Part of a false Princess, whom I seek after to punish for her Crimes?’ ‘ If I am *Victor*, reply’d the Prince of *Granada*, I’ll tell you: But let us not waste our Time in Discourse.’ Then *Elmedorus* push’d at him with his Lance, which shiver’d in a thousand pieces; and *Zoroaster* at the same Time broke his against his Enemy; and after that, both brandish’d their glittering Swords in the Air. *Zamea* trembling for her Defender, offer’d up her Prayers to Heaven; when *Zoroaster*, pierced with Wounds, fell at the Feet of the Knight of the Fatal Sword, and cas’d her of her Fears. *Zamea* ran to the Prince to ask him if he was not hurt, and seeing some Blood trickling down from a Wound in his Right-Arm, bound it up, and began to hope, from what she had seen him perform, that he would soon deliver her beloved *Almanzon*.

They left the Care of the Prince of *Maroc*’s Body to his Squire, of whom the Princess, before their Departure, would know how the Queen her Mother did, and what the King said after her Flight. ‘ When the King, Madam, said the Squire, understood that you was gone, and not doubting but that your Mother, through the Aversion she always had for my Master, was privy to it, he confin’d her in her own Apartment, and made use of all Stratagems to make her confess where you was gone with the Prince of *Tunis*. That Princess seeing that she could not conceal your Flight with the Prince *Almanzon*, and fearing a Pursuit, said that you was gone to take Sanctuary with the Queen of *Granada*, your Aunt. *Zamut* believed it, and sent out Parties on the Road to *Granada*, to bring you back to *Fez*. *Zoroaster* in Despair,

12 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

‘ and without staying for the Return of those who
 ‘ were sent after you, set out also; and within this
 ‘ Year we have travell’d thro’ *Spain* twice or thrice,
 ‘ till at last my Master’s ill Fate brought him into
 ‘ this Mead, where this invincible Knight put an
 ‘ End to all his Misfortunes.’

The Princess could not forbear crying at the
 Troubles her Mother had undergone upon her Ac-
 count; but the Prince assuring her that she should
 soon see her dear *Almanzon* again, she mounted her
 Horse, and set forwards. The Motion of Riding
 set *Elmedorus*’s Arm bleeding afresh, which *Zamea*
 stopp’d with an Herb she apply’d, and oblig’d him
 to alight at a little Town there was in the Road,
 and sent his Squire for a Surgeon, who having ex-
 amined the Wound, told him, he must keep his
 Bed at least three Days, notwithstanding the Wound
 was but slight: The Princess had much ado to get
 the Knight to take a little Rest; who after he had
 promised her he would go to Bed, retired to her
 own Chamber. The next Morning being told that
 the Prince was asleep, she waited in her Chamber
 till she was informed he was awake; when going
 to his Bed-side, and asking him how he did, he
 answer’d, ‘ I am too well, Madam, for an unhap-
 ‘ py Wretch: *Alzayda*, during that small Sleep into
 ‘ which my Loss of Blood cast me, has been to re-
 ‘ proach me: I saw her in a Chamber of the same
 ‘ Castle *Almanzon* is confin’d in; she seem’d to me
 ‘ to be cover’d with a Veil of black Gauze, and to
 ‘ reproach me for the little Care I had taken to
 ‘ revenge her Death. I would have thrown myself
 ‘ at her Feet, and told her that the Oath I had
 ‘ made to punish her Enemies, prevented my fol-
 ‘ lowing her; and that I had not neglected one
 ‘ Moment to find them out; but the Effort I made
 ‘ to embrace her Knees, waken’d me.’ ‘ This
 ‘ Dream, reply’d the Princess, is very mysterious;
 ‘ *Alzayda* is not dead, but is, without Dispute, in
 ‘ the same Prison with my dear Prince.’ ‘ Ah! Ma-
 ‘ dam,

Elmedorus and Princess Alzayda. 13

‘ dam, said Elmedorus, letting fall Tears, I cannot doubt of the Veracity of *Talmut* my Squire, who saw her dying, and who has told me her dying Words.’ ‘ If I knew your History, reply’d the Princess, and you could put the same Confidence in me, as I have done in you; I could speak with the more Certainty : *Talmut* may tell it me while your Wound is dressing.’ *Elmedorus* could not refuse *Zamea*. The Surgeon came at that Instant, and she went out with *Talmut* and *Adelinda*, leaving *Almanzon*’s Squire to attend the Prince. They went into a little Wood behind the House, and having sought out a shady Place, the Princess and *Adelinda* sat down on the Grass, with *Talmut* at their Feet, who began the History of his Master’s Life in these Words.



The History of Prince Elmedorus, of Granada, and the Princess Alzayda.

YOU know, without doubt, Madam, said *Talmut*, that my Master is the Son of the King of *Granada* and his Queen *Ermendina*, whose Beauty and Virtue were the Delight of the Court of *Granada*. The Prince was named *Elmedorus* ; and since, for his glorious Exploits, the Knight of the Fatal Sword. He began to be known by that Name in a War the King his Father made against the *Castilian Moors*, where he performed Acts exceeding common Courage ; so that he was look’d upon as the Author of that Peace those People were forced to sue for.

After this War, he asked Leave of the King to travel incognito throughout Spain, which was given him

14 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

him; but the Queen, who doated on him, opposed it very much, because a Magician her Friend, call'd *Zamut*, had told her, the Prince would run great Dangers in his Travels; but to secure him, gave the Queen an enchanted Ring of a Ruby, cut in the Shape of an Heart, which had the Power to destroy all Enchantments when the Point was turn'd upwards. The Queen seeing she could not dissuade her Son from going, gave him this Ring, and made him promise to wear it always as the Magician had told her; which *Elmedorus* promised, and left *Granada*, attended only by me. After having spent a Year in visiting several Courts, we arrived at *Leon* on a Day a great Horse-Race was to be run, wherein the Princess was to give the Prize; which was a Sword set with Rubies of great Value, which my Prince won with so great an Address, that he was admired by the whole Court, and afterwards went to receive it from the Hands of the charming *Alzayda*. 'If I had not seen you, Madam, continued Talmut, I should say that the Princess of *Leon* was the most beautiful Lady in all *Spain*: Never was more Majesty accompanied with more Sweetness of Temper; her Hair was of a light Brown, and her Complexion so fine and lively, that nothing could exceed it but her brilliant Eyes; in short, her whole Person abounded in Charms.'

Elmedorus, ravish'd with so much Beauty, was lost in thought; and if the King, to whom he had told his Name had not just then made him a Compliment, to which he was obliged to reply, it would have been some Time before he would have got out of that pleasing Trance. When the Races were over, the King returned to the Palace, and having forced my Prince to accept of an Apartment, he went and chang'd his Habit, and returned to pass the Evening with the Queen, and had the Happiness of talking above two Hours with the Princess. But what new Charms did he discover in that Conversation! Her Wit surpass'd her Beauty, and a Sweetness,

Elmedorus and Princess Alzayda. 15

Sweetness, attended with a strict Modesty, reigned in all her Actions; the which, tho' it inspired him with Love, yet would not allow him to complain. *Elmedorus* was but too sensible of this tyrannick Power, and retired to his Apartment, the most in Love that Man could be: Every Day after strengthen'd his Chains, and render'd them as invincible as those of Death

At the same Time I became acquainted with a young Maid of the Princess's Retinue, named *Sanchea*, for whom I had some Esteem, and was informed by her, that that admirable Princess conceiv'd an Inclination towards my Master, which she opposed in vain; and notwithstanding her severe Virtue, she was not displeas'd to see the Conquest her Eyes had made, but conceal'd her Sentiments so well, that *Elmedorus*, perceiving no more than a bare Civility, doubted whether she knew how much he adored her. Sometimes he would say softly, and looking full upon her, 'Divine *Alzayda*, 'is it possible that my Sighs and languishing Looks 'should not inform you how much I am in Love, and 'that my Passion exceeds all others? Can so pure a 'Flame offend?' And at those Times was just ready to declare his Love; but his Respect, and the Fear of being banish'd that lovely Princess's Presence, prevented him. At this Time the Prince of *Asturias* declared War against the King of *Leon*, who, that he might not be surprized by his Enemy, assembled his Troops, put himself at the Head of them, and march'd with *Elmedorus*, who wou'd accompany him to the Frontiers. My Prince could not take his Leave of the Princess but in the Queen's Presence, where she was afraid she should not be Mistress enough of herself to hide her Grief at his going to a War, which, it was thought by all Persons, would be very bloody: And the Prince of *Granada*, for his part, was very much concerned that he could not tell her, that to shew how much his Life was consecrated to her, he was going to fight against her Father

16 *The Tales of the FAIRIES:*

Father's Enemies. When we arrived on the Frontiers, where the general Rendezvous of the Army was, the King of *Leon* would have given the Prince of *Granada* a Command; but he refused it, saying, that he would have the Honour of fighting near his Person. We were some Time before we could have an Opportunity of coming to a general Engagement, till the Prince, whose Army was larger than ours, presented one. Both Armies fought with equal Courage and Conduct, and Victory seem'd to declare for our Enemies; when my Prince changed the Scene of the Battle by killing the Prince of *Asturias*, whose Troops, instead of revenging his Death, thought only of Flight, and left us the Field of Battle.

This Victory put an End to the Campaign, the Enemy retired to their Frontiers, and the King, after giving my Master a thousand Thanks, return'd to *Leon*. The Queen and Princess came to meet us; the Roads were crowded with People, who said aloud, That the only way to see the King of *Leon* Master of great Part of *Spain*, was to marry the Prince of *Granada* with the Princess *Alzayda*. *Elmedorus*, finding the Occasion favourable to speak of his Love, went up to *Alzayda's* Chariot, with whom there was none but *Sanchez*, and said to her, ' Madam, the Gods sometimes explain themselves by the Mouths of the People; shall I dare to presume that this Oracle may not offend the Divine *Alzayda*? My Heart, inflamed by the first Glance of your Eyes, with the most respectful Passion, has waited long for this happy Moment to declare itself: 'Tis in your Power, charming Princess, to condemn my Love to an eternal Silence, or to permit me to call myself your Knight.' ' Sir, reply'd *Alzayda*, blushing, if it is the Will of the Gods to unite the Crowns of *Leon* and *Granada*, it would be in vain for me to resist it; but let me wait till they declare themselves by Voices less tumultuous; and give me Leave till then, to doubt

of.

Elmedorus and Princess Alzayda. 17

‘ of their profound Decrees, and not force me to
 ‘ forget the Victory we owe you, to remember the
 ‘ Crime you commit in speaking to me of Love,
 ‘ which I ought not to listen to without the Con-
 ‘ sent of the King and Queen.’ ‘ I have no reason
 ‘ to believe they will refuse me it, *answer’d the*
 ‘ *Prince*; but as I cannot doubt, Madam, but I have
 ‘ the Misfortune to displease you, I shall punish-
 ‘ this rash Heart, which harbours a guilty Flame
 ‘ too much, since it is disown’d by the Lady who
 ‘ first gave it birth.’ The King, who then came
 up to *Alzayda’s* Chariot, prevented her making *El-*
medorus any Reply; but whatever Constraint she
 put herself under to conceal the Regard she had
 for him, she made him a Sign to retire, with so
 sweet and obliging a Look, that he forgot all the
 severe Things she said before. From that Day *Elme-*
dorus began to hope, and redoubled his Cares and
 Love with so much Respect and Tenderness, that
 the beautiful *Alzayda* declared she should not oppose
 his Passion, if the King her Father approved it.

At that Time, Madam, continued the Squire, the
 Prince of *Maroc’s* Challenge was brought to Court,
 and my Master asked the King and Princess’s Con-
 sent to go to maintain her Charms. *Alzayda* refus-
 ed him with a Modesty which render’d her more
 deserving of the Care *Elmedorus* would take to gain
 the Victory for her; but the King, who loved her
 tenderly, and who was pleased to find that the
 Prince of *Granada* had an Inclination for his Daugh-
 ter, gave him Leave to go and call himself her
 Knight, and obliged the Princess to give him a
 Scarf she wore that Day to hang the Sword on he
 won at the Horse-Races. The Princess obey’d with
 so obliging a Blush, that my Prince never disputed
 but that with these Marks of his Happiness he
 should overcome *Zoroaster*, and all the Knights in
 the World; and taking his Leave of the King,
 Queen, and *Alzayda*, set forward on his Journey
 to Fez.

18 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

We travelled several Days without any Adventure befalling us, till we came to the Sea-side. which we were to cross to *Africk*, where we went on board a Vessel that we found there just going off; but, Madam, we were no sooner out at Sea, but a sudden Sleepiness seiz'd us that we could not resist. When we awaken'd, we found ourselves in a magnificent Palace, built on an Island in the *Atlantick* Ocean. All that could be desired to make a Place agreeable, was found here, whether for the Nobleness of the Buildings, the Richness of the Furniture, or the Beauty of the Gardens, and fine Fountains and Canals. The Woods about abounded with Arbours of Jessamin, and fine Walks of Orange and Pomgranate Trees, where the Birds, by their sweet harmonious Concerts, ravish'd the Senses; in short, a perpetual Spring reign'd in this heavenly Abode. *Elmedorus* was very much surprized to find himself in so beautiful a Palace; and while he was reflecting how he came there, he saw a beautiful Lady enter, follow'd by a great many lovely Nymphs. ' *Elmedorus*, said the Lady to him, the Gods, to whom the Lives of Heroes are always dear, inform'd me that the Tournament at *Fez* would be fatal to you; therefore be not displeas'd with me for preventing your going to a Place so fatal to your Life. No Lady can dispute with *Alzayda* the Prize of Beauty; and *Zoroaster's* Challenge cannot affect her Charms. As soon as the Time of this dangerous Diversion is passed, the same Vessel that brought you hither, shall carry you a much shorter Way to the charming Princess of *Leon*, if nothing here can detain you.' ' Nothing can keep me from my Princess, interrupted the Prince in a Passion; and tho' I see here all that is most perfect in Nature, I should have been better pleased, if the Gods would have permitted me to have dy'd fighting for, and maintaining the Charms of the Divine *Alzayda*, than to languish out my Days at this Distance from her

Elmedorus and Princess Alzayda. 19

‘ her bright Eyes.’ ‘ Well, said the Lady, presenting him her Hand to lead him into the Garden, Time will, perhaps, make you change your Mind.’

After two or three Turns in the Flower-Garden, where there were very beautiful Statues, she proposed to him to run with one of her Nymphs in a long Alley of Orange-Trees; telling him that all the Knights whom Fortune brought thither, were obliged to try their Swiftneſs with *Liriopa*, which was the Name of the Nymph. *Elmedorus*, unwilling to be the firſt that ſhould break through that Cuſtom, tho’ he knew not the Myſtery of it, ſet out at the ſame Time with that Nymph, and was at the End of the Alley above twenty Yards before her; but found himſelf ſo dry with that Exerciſe, that he drank plentifully at a Fountain that ſtood at the End of the Race, tho’ the Water was of a blackiſh Colour, and diſagreeable Taſte. He had no ſooner ſwallow’d this Water, but he thought of never leaving this Place: *Alzayda* was blotted out of his Heart, and his Paſſion decreaſing, when void of the Remembrance of the Perſon, he believed the Fairy *Deſideria* to be the Object; and approaching her, received the Compliments ſhe made him for vanquiſhing *Liriopa* with ſo tender an Air, that the Fairy applauded herſelf in her Succeſs. When it was Night, we return’d to the Palace, where we had a delicious Supper, and after it a charming Concert of Muſick, which concluded the Evening. Then the Prince retired to his Apartment, where he ſlept all the Night, without thinking of the beautiful *Alzayda*.

I have been ſince informed, that the enchanted Fountain, which made ſuch a prodigious Change in *Elmedorus*, took its Riſe from the River *Styx*; and that the Fairy, by an extraordinary Charm, had added to its natural Virtue that of rendring herſelf the Object of the Knight’s Love. I was told, moreover, by one of her Nymphs, that *Deſideria* paſſing one Day thro’ *Leon*, to gather ſome Herbs on the Mountain

20 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

Mountains which surrounded that Kingdom, and seeing the Prince of *Granada*, she conceived a violent Passion for him, and resolved to get him to her Island; that the Opportunity of the Tournament seem'd favourable to her; and that she laid that fatal Vessel on the Coast which brought us to her Palace. The Prince, charmed with the Bounties of the Fairies, passed his Time very happily: He could wish for nothing but he had it; and the Fairy amused him agreeably by a thousand new Diversions: Sometimes these two Lovers, accompanied by Nymphs finely dress'd, were drawn in Chariots of Ebony by white Unicorns to the Seaside, where the Fish in Obedience to the Incantments of *Desideria*, hung themselves on the Hooks which the Prince threw out for them; sometimes on Horses as swift as Deer, they hunted the most savage Beasts, which could not avoid the fatal Darts which *Elmedorus* threw at them, but fell before him; and sometimes, yielding to softer Pleasures, they diverted themselves in seeing the Shepherds and Shepherdesses dancing on the flowry Meads; but more often pleased themselves in tender Conversations, without any Witnesses to their Loves, and passed whole Days in the most dark and shady Parts of the Wood, where they could be the most retired.

One Day when the Prince, impatient to see his beautiful Fairy, whom he could not find in her Apartment, was looking for her in a Grove of Myrtle, where she often went, he was accosted by a Man of a majestick Presence, who imprinting on his Mind Respect and Fear, said to him, 'What dost thou here, unhappy *Elmedorus*? Thou languishest in a soft Idleness, while the cruel *Asmonadus*, having conquer'd the Kingdom of *León*, keeps thy Princess a Prisoner. Dost not thou remember the Love which thou hast sworn to the Divine *Alxayda*? See if the Fairy has any Thir

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Elmedorus and Princess Alzayda. 21

‘ comes nigh her Beauty : ’ *And saying these Words, gave him her Picture.* Elmedorus, ashamed at these Reproaches, and struck with those Features which he had so long adored, remain’d for some Time distracted. ‘ Throw off this Inchantment which makes thee a Slave, *continued this Stranger* ; why hast thou forgot to make use of the Ring which the Queen thy Mother gave thee when at *Granada* ? turn it up on that Side on which it bears its Fatality, and behold its Divine Virtue.’

Elmedorus, coming to himself at this Discourse of the Inchanter *Zamat*, looked on his Finger, and saw that his Ring was turned with the Point downwards ; and following the Advice of this wise Magician, found himself to be the same as when he was at *Leon*. He blushed with Rage and Anger for the Time he had wasted with the Fairy *Desideria* ; and being about to ask *Zamat* how he should get out of that Island, could not find him. In haste to go and deliver the Princess, he ran to the Palace, and ordered me to get the Horses ready. Just as we were going, the Fairy, inform’d of his Intent, came to stop him ; but without being moved by her Words or Tears, we left her Palace, and the enchanted Isle. We found a Vessel in the Port ready to sail, and soon reached the Continent again, where, mounting our Horses, we pursu’d our Journey. One Morning as we were coming out of a thick Forest, we saw a Knight arm’d Cap-a-pee, mounted on a stately Courser, who came and accosted my Prince. ‘ *Elmedorus*, said he, I am the Knight, the Revenger of Infidelities ; and that thou hast been guilty of towards the Fairy *Desideria*, cannot be repair’d but by thy Death. I am her Brother, and am as well skill’d in Inchantments ; but believing myself able, by my Courage, to make thee repent of the Injury thou hast done her, I shall only make use of my Sword.’ ‘ Let us see then, said Elmedorus, drawing his, if it is as dangerous as thy Charms, and if I can find a mortal Place

22 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

‘ Place in Enchanters, as well as in other Knights.’ In saying these Words he turned his Horse half about, and attack’d the Knight with a surprizing Valour: They fought both desperately; and the Prince seeing that he bled, redoubled his Fury, and threw his Enemy to the Ground, and setting his Foot upon his Throat, said to him, ‘ Thou must own that thy Enchantments would have been of more Service to thee than thy Sword.’ ‘ I confess,’ *said the Knight*, ‘ that my Life is in your Power.’ ‘ Rise then,’ *said Elmedorus* ‘ I give it thee, to acquit myself of what I owe to *Desideria*;’ and helping him to get up and mount his Horse, left him full of Shame and Rage. In the mean Time we were forced to stop at the first House we could come at, to stop the bleeding of my Prince’s Wounds; and putting him to bed, notwithstanding his extreme Desire to see his Princess, I went for a Surgeon, who told me that his Wounds were very dangerous. I declare, Madam, that at this News I was sensibly concerned; but the Gods, who reserved this unhappy Prince for greater Afflictions, sent us a Succour which I could not expect; for while the Surgeon was probing the Wounds, the Master of the Cottage, where we had taken up our Quarters, came in, and seeing the Wounds, went out and return’d presently with his Hands full of Herbs, which he bruized, and dipping Compresses in the Juice, apply’d them, and assured my Master he should be perfectly cured in two Days. My Prince found his Host’s Words to be very true; and after having recompenc’d him for his Charity, set forward for *Leon*; and in our Way we were informed, by a Person whom we met, of all the Changes that had happen’d during our Absence.

How that *Asmonadus*, Prince of *Estremadura*, a cruel and wicked Magician, falling in Love with the Princess, and being refused by the good King her Father, to revenge himself, laid Siege to *Leon*, which he found defenceless, and made himself
Master

Elmedorus and Princess Alzayda. 23

Master of it, and put the King and Queen to death. That he kept the Princess a Prisoner in the Palace, and by seeming Respect and Presents, endeavour'd to make her forget his Crimes; but that that generous Princess, despising his Love as much as his Hatred, spent her Days in Sorrow and Affliction; and that for the last Fortnight she had been very ill. This melancholy News had a terrible Effect on the Heart of *Elmedorus*, who fell into a Swoon. His Wounds broke open again, and were attended with a violent Fever, which brought him almost to Death's door. His Uneasiness for the Misfortunes of the Princess, made him send me directly away to *Leon*. I found the Palace all in Confusion, no Centries at the Gates, and went into *Alzayda's* Apartment without Hindrance: But when I came into her own Chamber, O Heavens! what a Sight did I behold? Her Face was as pale as Death, her Eyes half shut, and her Mouth half open; in short, there appeared no Signs of Life in her. My Surprise and Grief were so great, that I could not help crying out, which made *Sanchea*, who sat by that dying Beauty all in Tears, turn her Head towards me. '*Sanchea*, said I, what have you forgot me?' 'Ah! *Talmut*, reply'd she, the Prince of *Granada* is happy in Death, if he always loved this unfortunate Princess!' 'My Prince is not dead,' answered I, but would have been here, had not the News of the Princess's Illness put him in danger of his Life.' Just Heavens! cry'd *Sanchea*, what Fatality hangs over the unhappy House of *Leon*! The Princess, continued that Maid, had Courage enough to resist all the Cruelties of *Asmonadus*: But she could not bear the Loss of *Elmedorus*, whom that perfidious Tyrant told her was kill'd in a Duel; but from that Moment she has shewn no Token of Life: In vain I conjure her to give me some Signs that she knows me, but can get nothing from her but deep Sighs. *Asmonadus*, pleased with her Despair, shews a more

24 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

‘ licious Joy, which increases her Grief. But let
‘ us try if the News you bring, can recall her to
‘ Life; go to her, and speak to her as from the
‘ Prince.’ ‘ *Madam, said I to the Princess, taking up*
‘ *one of her fair Hands, and squeezing it to waken her,*
‘ *Elmedorus is not dead; he lives for you; will you*
‘ *forsake him?*’ At this Name, so dear to her, she
open’d her Eyes, and turning them towards me,
seem’d as if she wanted to know who I was. ‘ I
‘ am, Madam, *continued I, Talmut, whom the Prince*
‘ *of Granada has sent to let you know how much*
‘ *he can assure you of his respectful Passion.*’ ‘ *Tal-*
‘ *mut, said she, I have no Share in this Life; but*
‘ *tell your Master, that as I die for him, I would*
‘ *have him live to revenge me.*’ And in finishing
these Words, which I could but just hear, she fell
into her former Lethargy; and *Asmonadus* coming
in, I retired; but I was no sooner upon the Stair-
case, but I heard a Cry, *The Princess is dead.* With
Grief I returned to the Prince, and not daring to
let him know the Truth, I told him that *Alzayda* was
better; but he seeing in my Face the Marks of
the Tears which I had shed, no longer doubted of
his Misfortune.

All that Rage could inspire and invent, this mi-
serable Prince said and did; and if I had not told
him the Commands of that dying Princess, he
would not have survived her Death a Moment.
‘ Yes, too unhappy *Alzayda, said he, you shall be*
‘ *revenged: I swear, by all the Love I owe your*
‘ *dear Shade, I will preserve this Life till I have*
‘ *appeas’d your angry Ghost.*’ After this Resolution,
he was obliged to take care of his Health, that he
might the sooner execute the Commands of his dear
Princess; and within fifteen Days was able to get out
of Bed; and allowing himself some Time to bear the
Fatigue of riding, sent me again to *Leon* to know what
was become of the Princess’s Body, and where *Asmo-*
nadus was. I could learn nothing, but that the
Tyrant had taken the Corps along with him, which
Sanchea

Elmedorus and Princess Alzayda. 25

Sanchea could not be persuaded to leave, and that the Palace was shut up. I thought it to no purpose to make any further Inquiry, but return'd to tell my Master that *Asmonadus* was gone from *Leon*; which increased that unhappy Prince's Grief the more. However, resolv'd to find him out, we set forward for *Esremadura*, believing that for Fear of the People's rising at the Sight of their Princess's Body, he was gone to bury her in his own Dominions: But there we could not find him. Since then, the unfortunate *Elmedorus* has travell'd thro' all *Spain* to find his Enemy, and for this Year has pass'd his Nights in the Forests, and his Days in Places where he hoped to satisfy his Revenge.

' I could not have believ'd, said the Princess *Zamea*,
' after the Squire had made an End of his Relation, that
' I could have been sensible of any other Person's
' Misfortunes after my own; but the Prince of
' *Granada*'s are very moving, let us go and comfort
' him.' At the same Time the Princess got up, and
return'd to the House; and then going into *Elmedorus*'s Chamber, said, ' Indeed, Sir, your Misfortunes are able to draw Tears from others Eyes besides your own; and for my part, I could not refrain.' ' Madam, reply'd the Prince, I should tell you that the Compassion of so great a Princess as your self softens them; but, amiable *Zamea*, mine are of such a Nature, as to admit of no Comfort but from Death.' ' I hope for an happier End, answer'd the Princess of Fez, since I have heard your History and doubt not but the admirable *Alzayda* is yet living. *Asmonadus* knowing of your Return, and fearing your Presence, certainly took the Princess of *Leon* away in that Swoon, which made your Squire believe she was dead; and to conceal her, keeps her a Prisoner, as I told you this Morning, in that fatal Castle from whence you are to deliver the Prince of *Tunis*: 'Tis what the Inchanter *Zamat* would have you to understand by the Dream; and we have no occasion for any
V o L. III. C This

26 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

‘ thing but your Health, and the Ring he gave you,
 ‘ to put an End to all our Calamities.’ ‘ Alas !
 ‘ Madam, *reply’d the Prince*, if our Happiness depends
 ‘ on that fatal Ring, it is very uncertain, since I
 ‘ lost it in the Fight with *Desideria’s* Brother ; and
 ‘ the Fates have depriv’d me of that friendly Assis-
 ‘ tance.’ ‘ Your Courage, *answer’d the Princess*,
 ‘ will stand us in stead of all : Think only of your
 ‘ Health.’ And after these Words, *Zamea*, fearing
 she should discompose him by too long a Discourse,
 retired.

The next Day the Princess took a Walk in the
 same Wood again, attended by *Adelinda* and the
 Prince of *Tunis’s* Squire, where, after some Turns,
 she sat down in the same shady Place that *Talmut* had
 given her the History of his Master’s Life in : But had
 not been long sat down before she heard a Person
 talking loud, saying, ‘ I must own, Madam, the In-
 ‘ constancy of the Prince *Alinzor* deserves all your
 ‘ Hatred ; but I would have you moderate it, and
 ‘ return to the *Canary Islands*.’ ‘ No, *Phenisa, reply’d*
 ‘ another Person, hope not to see the happy *Canary*
 ‘ Isles till I have punish’d the Prince of *Numidia*
 ‘ for his Infidelity. The magnificent Fairy told me
 ‘ that I should find an End of my Troubles in the
 ‘ Kingdom of *Granada* ; we are not far off, and I
 ‘ will never return till I have wash’d away the mor-
 ‘ tal Injury he has done me in his Blood.’

Zamea, curious to see this Stranger, in the Sound
 of whose Voice there was something very moving,
 got up, and advancing forwards, saw two young
 Knights sat on the Grass ; and not doubting, by
 what she had heard, of the Reason that obliged
 this Stranger to conceal her Sex, and charm’d with
 her Youth and Beauty, ran to her with open Arms,
 and said, ‘ Lovely Princess, be not displeas’d that
 ‘ Chance has let me know that I can give you
 ‘ such tender Proofs of Friendship, as none that see
 ‘ you can refuse. I am an unhappy Princess, con-
 ‘ tinu’d *Zamea*, used to bewail my Sorrows : Let

Princess Zalmayda and Alinzor. 27

' us complain together ; it may help to comfort us.'
 ' Whatever Reason I may have to be angry that I
 ' am known, *reply'd the Princess of the Canaries*, I
 ' have no Cause to be displeas'd at the happy Op-
 ' portunity of mingling Tears with so illustrious a
 ' Person, which may contribute to assuage great
 ' Afflictions. But the Misfortune you heard me
 ' complain of, is certainly so injurious, that nothing
 ' but the Death of him who was the Cause of it can
 ' make an Atonement.' ' The Death of an Enemy
 ' who once was dear to us, *answer'd Zamea*, and
 ' who sometimes remains so, tho' we don't think it,
 ' is not always a certain Remedy. But, my Princess,
 ' *continu'd she*, it is not now a proper Time to dispute
 ' about your Revenge ; some Days Acquaintance
 ' may gain me more of your Friendship, and then
 ' I may convince you.' ' Let us think now of a lit-
 ' tle Refreshment, after your Fatigues, in a small
 ' Habitation, where the Wounds of a great Prince
 ' keep me some Days.' This Piece of Friendship of
 ' the beautiful *Zamea's* the Princess of the *Canaries*
 ' could not resist, but went with her to the Cottage.

The Prince of *Granada* was surprized to see so
 beautiful a Knight with the Princess of *Fez* : But
 the charming *Zamea* having told him the Adven-
 ture, he offer'd the Princess of the *Canaries* his
 Arm and Sword to revenge her. ' I have no need of
 ' any other Hand but my own, Generous Knight,
 ' *said she*, to punish the false Wretch ; for should
 ' another spill his Blood, his Death would cost me
 ' Tears.' ' I told you, Madam, *reply'd Zamea*, that
 ' this ungrateful Man was dearer to you than you
 ' believ'd : You are afraid of trusting your Revenge
 ' into too sure Hands.' ' Judge not so ill of my
 ' Hatred, *answer'd the Princess of the Canaries* : If ever
 ' you felt that cruel Passion, you must grant that
 ' the Pleasure of revenging an Injury one's self is
 ' very sensible.' ' I can see nothing in all you say,
 ' fair Princess, *said Zamea*, but a disguised Love ;
 ' and if the too-happy *Alinzor* was to appear at your

28 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

‘ Feet, his Sighs and Repentance would sooner
 ‘ abate your Passion than his Death.’ The Surgeon coming to dress the Prince’s Wounds, the Princesses retired to their own Chamber, where their charming Conversation cultivated an extraordinary Love and Friendship. The Princess *Zamen* having obliged the Princess of the *Canaries* to promise not to go without her, since they were both to go to *Granada*, desired her the next Day to inform her of *Alinzor’s* Infidelities ; which the lovely Princess of the *Canaries* did in these Words :



The History of Zalmayda Princess of the Canary Islands, and the Prince of Numidia.

YOU know already, Madam, said *Zalmayda*, that I am the Princess of the *Canary* Islands, but may be ignorant that my Mother died in Child-Bed of me, and that my Father did not survive her many Years. I was left under the Care of the Princess *Zantilla*, my Mother’s Sister ; and during my Infancy, my Father committed the Government of my Dominions to the Prince of the *Summer* Islands, who was a prudent Prince, and very fit to govern so headstrong a People as my Subjects. But Love, unhappily for me, made him think that the greatest of all Blessings was to be beloved by me. The Princess *Zantilla* used all her Power with me, and represented continually, that a Scepter was too weighty for me to hold ; and that the *Canarians*, used to the Government of *Zenorus*, which was his Name, would be pleased to see my Crown upon his Head. All her Arguments were of no Force with me ; I could not like *Zenorus* ; and the Reputation he had of being a great Sorcerer, gave me such an Aversion

Princefs Zalmayda and Alinzor. 29

sion to him I could never overcome ; though he has served me after such a Manner, that I ought to have all the Obligation in the World to him.

The Court of the *Canaries* was in this Condition, when I had a great Desire to go to the Temple of *Diana*, which stood upon the Continent. The Princefs *Zantilla* could not undertake this Voyage, by reason of an Indisposition she lay under ; and *Zenorus* was gone to quell an Insurrection in his own Dominions. I embark'd only with this Maid you see with me, and some Slaves, by reason I had a mind to perform this Pilgrimage incognito. We landed after a pleasant Voyage at the nearest Seaport to the Temple, from whence I went in a Chariot to some fine long-shaded Walks, which led directly to the Temple great Gates. When the Sacrifices began, I went in ; and during the Ceremonies observed over against me a young Knight of an admirable Shape, who looked at me so earnestly, that he made me blush : But discovering in his Face a thousand Charms, my Thoughts were more intent to watch him, than on the Hymns that were sung to the Honour of the Goddess. When the Sacrifices were over, I went out of the Temple, and was follow'd through all the Walks by this Knight like my Shadow. Wherever I went, he was nigh me ; and his Eyes always meeting mine, we kindled in each other's Breast a pure and everlasting Flame. This Effect of Sympathy was so extraordinary, that this Knight, who was the Prince of *Numidia*, could not forbear speaking to me, and offering me his Hand, to help me into my Chariot ; and I, in the Perplexity of Thought whether, or no, I should accept of the Assistance of a Stranger, could not tell how to refuse him. ' Madam, said he, I must be well-beloved by the Goddess we worship in this Place, to have inspired her Vestal not to offer my Sacrifices till to-morrow, since by this Delay she has shewn me the most admirable Person the Gods ever formed.' Certainly that Lady was not in the Temple.

30 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

reply'd I, unwilling to take so flattering a Speech to my self; for I saw no Woman that attracted my Eyes.
The Reason is, Madam, reply'd the bold Alinzor,
you saw not your self, since you knew not your self in that beautiful Person, whose tyrannick Power I feel. *Sir, said I, with a serious Air, the Customs of your Country are undoubtedly different from those of mine; for I cannot believe that so accomplish'd a Knight would otherwise be wanting in the Respect that is due to my Sex and Rank.*
If the Laws of some Nations admit of Silence near the adorable Object of their Passion, reply'd Alinzor, I must confess the Numidians, whose Sovereign I am, are of so violent and passionate a Nature, that ——— *Say also, and so inconstant, reply'd I laughing.* *Indeed, said Alinzor, that horrible Crime is laid to our Charge: But, Charming Stranger, your Eyes can give no Chains but what are lasting; therefore you need not fear this sable Hue of my Country.* *I am more afraid of your Maxims, reply'd I; and for the short Time that we are together, let us forget them, I beseech you, for I have no mind to change Laws with you, but as a Knight, you ought to follow mine.* *With all my Heart, reply'd the Prince; I swear by your fair Hands to have no other.* *Begin then, answer'd I, from this Instant; let me get into my Chariot, and be content with this short Acquaintance without accompanying me any further.* *I own, Madam, I should have been very sorry if he had obey'd me, and that I was very well pleas'd to find him at my Chariot-Door, when I came to alight. I made him some Reproaches; but they were so faintly spoken, as to be no Hindrance to his leading me into my Apartment; where growing bolder, I survey'd all his Charms. If, Fair Princess, you knew that Lovely Traytor, you would excuse so odd a Conduct in one of my Age: And if sparkling black Eyes, finely cut, and full of Fire, a majestick Forehead, a Mouth of white Teeth set within ruby Lips,*

Princess Zalmayda and Alinzor. 31

a delicate and noble Shape, Wit which render'd his Conversation bewitching, are Charms sufficient for an Excuse, I am undoubtedly innocent : But nothing can excuse me but that Sympathy which unites Hearts in an inevitable Chain, notwithstanding all the Efforts of Reason. And this fatal Inclination engaged me to stay the remaining Part of that Day and the next, to be Witness of the Sacrifice he was to offer to *Diana*.

The next Morning he met me in the Walks leading to the Temple ; and as he had been told by *Phenisa* that I design'd to go away after the Ceremony, he came arm'd, to be ready to follow me. His Helmet was shaded with red and white Feathers ; on his Arm he bore a light Shield, on which there was the Representation of Lightning breaking out of a Cloud, and drawing after it a *Cupid*, and these Words, *I am no sooner born, but I die*. As soon as he saw me, he came to me, and presenting me his Hand, led me into the Temple, where he was more intent upon gazing at me, than imploring the Assistance of the Goddess he invoked ; for which I reproach'd him after the Ceremony was over, and to which he answer'd, ' Madam, when I came here I ' wanted to consult the Goddess ; but my Fate is ' since changed : You are my Altar and my Goddess, ' and your Eyes the Oracles I ought to consult. ' Reproach me not for the Neglect of *Latona's* ' Daughter, since you can sooner pronounce my ' Fate ; and it is in your Power to make me happy or ' miserable.' ' If your Fate depends on me, reply'd I, ' I would try if I could not create a Love in your ' Heart that would not die so soon.' ' Ah ! Ma- ' dam, cry'd he, going to scratch out that Device, but that ' I would not let him, you have created a Passion which ' shall never be subject to Death : My Flame is as ' immortal as the Beauty is that gave it Birth, and ' shall burn for ever. But that it may live with ' Pleasure, you must not, Charming *Zalmayda*, be ' angry that you gave it Being. ' Well, said I, ' laugh

32 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

‘ *laughing*, to have the Glory of rendring a *Numidian*
 ‘ faithful, I will grant you your Request : But take
 ‘ care, *Alinzor*, lest I experience before Sun-set that
 ‘ the Lightning triumphs over Love.’

Alinzor swore a thousand Times that nothing shou’d
 ever make him change his Sentiments ; and trusting
 to Oaths as inconstant as his *Numidian* Sands, let him
 know all the Tenderneſs I had for him before we
 arrived at the Port where we were to part : For I
 would not permit him to go along with me to the
Canaries, for fear the Princess *Zantilla* should not ap-
 prove my Conduct. But unable to be long separated
 from him, I bid him come to our Island the Day
 we celebrated the Feast of the Sun. *Alinzor* recei-
 ved this Command with Grief ; for when he had
 led me on board my Vessel, I saw him turn about
 to hide his Tears ; and when we were sailing out
 of the Harbour, I saw him with his Hands lifted up
 to Heaven fall into his Squire’s Arms. Such Marks
 of his Love fully persuaded me that the Prince of
Numidia was only worthy my Tenderneſs ; and
 poſſeſs’d with this Paſſion, I arrived at the *Canaries*
 much changed from what I was when I left them.
 The Princess my Aunt and *Zenorus* came to receive
 me with a tender and obliging Zeal, which I an-
 ſwer’d only by broken Words and Sighs : *Zantilla*
 took no Notice, or did not obſerve me ; but *Zenorus*-
 by his Science knew that he had a Rival belov’d,
 and that that Rival was the Prince of *Numidia* ; and
 ſeem’d ſo grieved, that tho’ he attended me to my
 Palace, he ſaid nothing to me.

I paſſed my Time moſt an End with *Pheniſa* in
 reckoning how long it would be to the Feast of the
 Sun, and in inventing ſuch Dreſſes as might ſet off
 that ſmall Stock of Beauty the Gods had left me
 with. And it may not, Madam, continued *Zalmay-
 da*, be diſpleaſing to be informed of the Cuſtom
 of this Feast. On the firſt Day of Summer the La-
 dies, all richly dreſs’d, place themſelves on Scaf-
 folds erected for that Purpoſe along a large Walk of
 Orange-

Princess Zalmayda and Alinzor. 33

Orange-Trees that leads to the Temple of the Sun, where there is a Statue adorn'd with Jewels placed on an Altar of white Marble. At the Gate of the Temple there stands a wonderful Tree, the Leaves of which produce continually a gentle and agreeable Dew, which dropping into great Vessels of Porphyry, serves to water all the Lands and Gardens, and makes Amends, after a wonderful Manner, for the Cruelty of Nature, which refuses us those gentle Showers the rest of the World enjoy. This Feast is made to obtain this necessary Liquor; and that Year the Lot fell upon me to present the Offerings; when, pleas'd with the Thoughts of appearing that Day in so extraordinary a Dress, I neglected nothing that could give a Lustre to my natural Charms.

As soon as it was Day I came from my Palace, representing the Goddess *Flora* in a Chariot adorn'd with Festons of Flowers, and drawn by six white Horses. My Habit was a Silver Gause, work'd full of all sorts of Flowers in the most natural and lively Colours; my Breast was stuck full of Jessamine and Roses, and my Hair platted with Lilies and Orange-Flowers. On my Head I had a Crown of Pomgranates and Tuberoses, and behind me there hung down a Veil of the same with my Habit, and fasten'd at the bottom to the Left-side of my Gown; and in my Hands I carried a Basket of Flowers. The Attendants of the Goddess I represented follow'd me, and *Pomona* and *Vertumnus* carried noble Baskets of the finest Fruits in Season. In this Order, accompanied with Bands of fine Musick cloath'd gallantly like Shepherds, we arriv'd at the sacred Tree, where I alighted out of my Chariot, and laying my Nosesgay upon an Altar built for that Purpose, left it to be refresh'd by that divine Water, *Pomona* and *Vertumnus* doing the same. Then taking up our Baskets again, we went into the Temple, where we made a Sacrifice of our Flowers and Fruits upon a little Altar of Chrystal set in Gold, by setting fire to the Incense which was upon a Pile of sweet

34 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

scented Woods, which perfumed the Temple with a ravishing Odour. During this Ceremony an Hymn was sung to the Sun, to accept our Vows and Offerings, and to continue that heavenly Dew. After this, we return'd back in the same Order we came; but not without my observing whether the Prince of *Numidia* was there. I was very uneasy not to find him there; but thought to see him at a Tournament *Zenorus* made upon my Account. I waited with Impatience for the Hour when this Diversion was to begin, and, I believe, made all the Ladies angry, for keeping them so long on the Scaffolds before the Lifts were open'd. At last the Judges of the Field having open'd the Rail, I saw a Knight enter, who, by his Shape and Air, seem'd very like the false *Alinzor*; and I never doubted but that it was him, when I saw him Victor. I made myself ready to give him a Scarf of Blue and Gold, which I had worn that Day with all the Pleasure imaginable: But when he kneel'd before me, and lifted up his Visor, and I found it was not *Alinzor*, I had scarce Strength enough to give him the Prize. I return'd to my Palace in a violent Rage and Passion. *Phenisa* endeavour'd to make me think that the Prince of *Numidia* was not so guilty as I believed, but that some important Affair had detain'd him against his Will.

The Princess *Zantilla* was surpriz'd at my Grief, and could not imagine what troubled me: But *Zenorus*, knowing that he never should be able to dispose me to marry him so long as I lov'd *Alinzor*, endeavour'd to engage me to make him the Confidant of my Passion. 'Madam, said he to me one Day, if I saw that
' my Rival was deserving of your Love, I should
' forbear my Remonstrances: But to suffer the most
' beautiful Person in the World to sigh for a false
' Prince, who, not content with forgetting the
' Princess he has adored, prefers another (not Mistris of half her Charms) before her; is —
' Ah! *Zenorus*, cry'd I, without giving him Time to make

Princess Zalmayda and Alinzor. 35.

‘ an End of what he was going to say, if you can make me sensible that the Prince of *Numidia* is instant, I promise you to hate him as much as I love him.’ ‘ It shall be your own Fault, Madam, answer’d *Zenorus*, if those bright Eyes of yours see him not this Day at the Feet of one of the Beauties of his Court.’ You may believe, my Princess, continued *Zalmayda*, that I could not refuse an Offer so agreeable to my Jealousy. As soon as it was Night, the Prince of the *Summer Islands* took me and *Phenisa* with him in his Chariot, drawn by flying Dragons, who, cutting the Air with a surprizing Swiftnes, alighted in the Gardens of *Alinzor’s* Palace, which were lighted by vast Numbers of Lamps; where *Alinzor*, regardless of a fine Concert of Musick that was playing, was laid at the Feet of a young *Numidian*, who in my Eyes seem’d to have nothing engaging in her Person. Struck at this Sight, I would have call’d out to him; but *Zenorus* would not give me Time; the Chariot flew away, and all I could do, was to drop my Picture as nigh the false Prince of *Numidia* as I possibly could.

As soon as we got to the *Canaries* again, I shut up myself and *Phenisa* in my Closer, and spent all that Night in complaining of *Alinzor*. This Piece of Service that the Prince of the *Summer Islands* had done me, contributed in no wise to his Happiness; on the contrary, all that Hatred which I should have entertain’d for *Alinzor*, fell to his Share. ‘ ’Tis you,’ said I to him one Day, who have been the Cause of all my Sorrows: Had I been ignorant of my Misfortunes, I should have been less unhappy.’ *Zenorus* made no Answer to these Reproaches but by Sighs, and endeavour’d by his Complaisance all that he could imagine to please me. One Evening, after having spent the Day in my Complaints, I took a Walk in my Gardens follow’d only by *Phenisa*, who was the only Person whose Company I could bear. At the turning of an Alley I saw a Man laid on the Grass, and looking on a Picture he held in his Hand with great

35 The Tales of the FAIRIES.

Attention; but the little Curiosity I had for any Thing but what regarded my Passion, made me to take no great Notice of him, but to turn another way. The Noise we made by our walking rouz'd this Stranger, who seeing me, ran after me, crying out, ' Whither do you fly, my Princess?' This Voice, so dear to me, and which I knew so well made me turn my Head about, when I saw *Alinzor* throw himself at my Feet, who held me a long Time before I could get from him. ' My dear *Zalmayda*, said he, I am then permitted to see you again, and the Gods at last have been moved by my Tears.'

All the Love he shew'd in his Actions and Discourse seem'd to me to agree so little with what I had seen of his Inconstancy, that I could not recover my Surprise. But at last, being persuaded that the perfidious Wretch came again to deceive me the more, I said to him, ' What can bring you here? Can you believe that I am ignorant of all your Infidelities; and that I am still so weak as to afford you any Marks of a Tenderness you are so ill deserving of? No, *Alinzor*, my Heart cannot be the Prize of so base a Return, which is owing to the Picture which I let fall, to put you in Mind of what you have lost. Go, and leave me to forget you, and come not with that Cruelty so unworthy of a Knight to oppose my eternal Quiet. If I was not afraid of being interrupted in what I am going to say, reply'd *Alinzor*, I would justify my self so clearly, that you should rather pity than accuse me. But too ungrateful Princess, you do all this to make me forget how much you prefer the Prince of the *Summer* Islands before me; which is what you cannot deny: And if you will give me an Hour's Audience in your Closet, I will shew you that fatal Order which did forbid my coming to the Feast of the Sun.' ' You tell me Things so remote from Truth, reply'd I, leaving him, because I saw *Zantilla* and *Zenorus* coming towards

Princess Zalmayda and Alinzor. 37

‘wards me; but to oblige you to confess your Levity, I give my Consent that *Phenisa* conducts you into my Apartment when every body’s retir’d: But be gone from me presently, and be not seen.’ And after these Words I went to meet my Aunt, but in so great a Disorder, that she might have easily observ’d it.

The Impatience to see whether my faithless *Alinzor* would make good what he told me, caused me to retire sooner than ordinary. The Sight of him had so enliven’d the Vivacity of my Sentiments, that I believed so accomplish’d a Prince could not be inconstant, tho’ I had seen it with my own Eyes: And to second my Impatience, sent *Phenisa* to the Place I bid him come to, where she waited the greatest part of the Night in vain; and being unable to stay any longer, return’d to let me know my Misfortune. But, Heavens! what a Condition was I in, when I saw her come in alone, and she told me he came not to the Rendezvous. Love, Rage, and Jealousy, attacking me all at the same Time, threw me into a Swoon; which was attended afterwards by so violent a Fever, that I became delirious, and talk’d to all that came near me as if they had been the perfidious Prince of *Numidia*. *Zenorus*, in Despair for my Illness, and in fear for my Life, gave me so excellent a Drink, that it not only cured my Fever, but calm’d the Transports of my Mind, and I was capable, tho’ I was always griev’d at the Infidelity of *Alinzor*, to resolve to strive to forget him. *Zantilla* advis’d me not to value so fickle a Lover; and, willing to hasten the Establishment of my Health by Change of Air, persuad’d me to go for some Time to the *Summer Islands*; to which I at last consented.

Zenorus, pleas’d to see me in a Country where he was Sovereign, made magnificent Entertainments every Day to divert me. Every Thing he did seem’d to bespeak his Love and Constancy, and no Lover ever knew better how to make use of whatever might make him be beloved: But all his Endeavours

38 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

yours could not force the ingrateful *Alinzor* from my Heart. Indeed, when my Grief render'd my Reason stronger, I was sometimes capable of wishing I might be sensible for the Prince of the *Summer Isles*; but that was all I could do to recompence his Love. The Tryal I had made of his Art, made me ask him again to discover more of my Knight's Falshood, as the only Means to cure my Passion. But the Fruits of his first Complaisance made him apprehend, that the Presence of *Alinzor* would serve only to increase both my Love and Despair. 'How cruel are you, Madam, said he, when I press'd him to do me that Favour, to force me to strengthen your Fetters? Don't you remember how much your Hatred was augmented towards me when you return'd from *Numidia*? Why, inhuman Princess, will you punish me for the Fault of my too-happy Rival?' 'If your Rival, reply'd I, in a Passion, was false, you would not be so much afraid of giving me such Proofs of his Inconstancy as might compleat my Cure: But undoubtedly you know that he loves, and fear, with Reason, that being convinc'd of his Love, I should prefer him before you.' 'Well, Madam, said Zenorus, since I must give that melancholy Satisfaction you ask, remember, unjust *Zalmayda*, that you force me to it.' And after these Words left me.

At Night, when every body was retir'd, we went in the same Chariot again; and after crossing Seas and passing over great Mountains and Valleys, we stopp'd at the Island of the Fairy *Desideria*. O Heavens! what Beauties did my Eyes there behold; and if my Thoughts had not been so intent upon finding the deceitful *Alinzor*, I should have taken great Pleasure in admiring this charming Abode. But pressing *Zenorus* to shew me the Prince of *Numidia*, he stopp'd just over a fine Parterre of the choicest Flowers; where a Nymph of a charming lively Beauty was making a Garland of the finest Flowers, and shewing it to one of her Companions, said, 'I would

Princess Zalmayda and Alinzor. 39

‘ would have *Alinzor’s* Love as lasting as this Garland, which I have bound up with Gold Thred, to endue it with the Durableness of that Metal.’ And after these Words, she perceiving the perfidious *Numidian* at the End of the Garden, ‘ Come, Prince, said she, and receive this new Mark of my Tenderness.’ *Alinzor*, transported with this charming Rival, came and threw him self at her Feet; and the Nymph putting the Garland upon his Head, told him of the Effect she desir’d; while the treacherous *Alinzor* kiss’d her Hand, and swore that nothing could destroy his Passion. Judge then, my dear Princess, of my Condition. I begg’d of *Zenorus* a thousand Times to let me alight out of the Chariot, to disturb by my Presence those their happy Moments. But he, inexorable to my Intreaties, hurried me away from that fatal Place, and brought me back again to my Apartment. All the Sense I had of the first Time of my knowing the Inconstancy of *Alinzor*, came nothing nigh what I suffer’d at this second Proof of my Misfortunes: But fearing lest *Zenorus* would do me no more of these cruel Services, I conceal’d my Despair, and shew’d him the more Complaisance; who, charm’d with the Hopes of curing me of a Passion that was so great an Obstacle to his own, entertain’d me continually with fresh Diversions. At last tir’d with them, and not being able to support the Chagrine of being in a Place where I could not refuse them, I return’d to the *Canaries*; where, abandoning my self to the most cruel Jealousy, I pass’d my Nights in the Place where I met the unconstant Prince of *Numidia*.

One Day, when more troubled than ordinary, I would go to offer up a Sacrifice to the Sun, to extinguish a Flame I foresaw would consume me; as I was entring into the Temple I heard somebody call *Phenisa*; but taking little or no Regard, pursued my Design; and when my Prayers were done, return’d to the Palace. A little after *Phenisa* came to me, when I was in my Closet, with a Disorder in her Face

40 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

Face that surpriz'd me. 'What is the Matter with you?' *said I*; and who was it that call'd you this Morning going into the Temple?' 'I don't know Madam, *answer'd the Maid*, whether I dare tell you, after the Knowledge you have had of the Prince of Numidia's Infidelities.' 'What's that you tell me?' *said I, blushing*; What has the Prince to do with what I ask you?' 'More than you think for, Madam, *reply'd she*.' 'Phenisa, *said I, in a terrible Agitation*, tell me this Mystery, without provoking me any further.' 'Well then, *said she*, since I must obey you, you must know, that as I follow'd you this Morning, I heard my self call'd just as you was got out of the Walk of Orange-Trees; and being curious to know who it was, turn'd my Head about, and saw Alinzor. I stole away from the rest of your Attendants as you was entering the Temple, and follow'd the Prince under the Trees, where he stopp'd. Phenisa, *said he*, the Anger of your Princess prevents my appearing before her in publick, for fear of displeasing her: But I cannot live if she refuses to hear me a Moment in private. Obtain me that Favour, dear Phenisa, and if I cannot recal in her Soul the Remembrance of that Bounty she shew'd me at the Temple of Diana, I promise you to deliver her from my hateful Presence by a Death which shall appease her Rage. Sir, *reply'd I*, the Princess has so much Cause to complain of you, that I cannot promise you to persuade her to see you; but will inform her of what you request. Be you in the Labyrinth at Sun-set, and I will let you know her Pleasure. Then, *continu'd Phenisa*, I parted from the Prince in haste to rejoin you, and am now come to ask you, what you please to have me do.' 'Alas! Phenisa, *said I*, can I know myself? I am too well convinc'd of Alinzor's Perfidiousness; my own Eyes, which cannot deceive me, have been Witnesses of it; and notwithstanding such certain Proofs, I cannot refuse my self the

Pleasure

Princess Zalmayda and Alinzor. 41

‘ Pleasure of reproaching him. Yes, *Phenisa*, I will
‘ go to the Labyrinth, and, perhaps, I may make
‘ him repent the wearing any other’s Chains but
‘ mine.’

Flatter’d by this foolish Hope, and guided by my
evil Genius, I went with *Phenisa* to the Place of
Rendezvous; but had not gone far in a Path that
led by the Park-Gate to the Labyrinth, before I saw
the Prince of *Namidia* gallop by, mounted on a fine
Horse, with a beautiful young Lady behind him: At
which dismal Sight I shriek’d out; and he without
so much as turning his Head, rid through the Gate.
Provoked by Rage and Jealousy, I ran after him to
the Sea-side, which was just by, and without being
able to hinder him, saw him go on board a Vessel
which waited only for his Arrival to set sail. At
this certain Sign of *Alinzor*’s Disdain, I fell into a
Swoon; and *Phenisa* getting me brought back to
the Palace, I lay great Part of the Night without
giving any Token of Life, till some Demon, an Ene-
my to my Repose, brought me to Life again, that I
might abandon myself to the most inexpressible De-
spair. I was no longer Mistress of my Reason; to
moderate my Transports, I disguised myself like a
Knight, and obliging my Confidant to do the same,
notwithstanding the begg’d of me to desist from a
Resolution so little agreeable to my Birth and Age,
I left the Palace and Island without being disco-
ver’d by any one, to search after the Prince of *Nu-
midia*, to make his Life atone for what I had en-
dured. But that I might know where to find him,
I went to consult the magnificent Fairy; who mov’d
by my Misfortunes, told me, that I should find an
End to my Troubles in the Kingdom of *Granada*;
whither I bent my Course, placing my greatest Hap-
piness in the Destruction of the faithless *Numidian*
Prince, without making use of any other Place of
Refreshment than Forests and Shepherds Huts. Yet-
terday I came into this little Wood, where Fortune,
to give me a Proof how much she was appeas’d,
made

42 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

made me so happy as to meet with you. ' I am
 ' the more obliged to her, *reply'd the Princess of Fez,*
 ' *embracing the beautiful Zalmayda,* for doing me the
 ' Pleasure of knowing the Princess of the *Canaries* ;
 ' and am so sensible of your miserable Condition,
 ' that I should wish *Alinzor* all manner of Mischief,
 ' if he was capable of loving any other Beauty but
 ' yourself.' ' You know by my History, *reply'd the*
 ' *Princess of the Canaries,* that that Prince never
 ' lov'd me, but took a cruel Pleasure in rendering
 ' me the most unhappy of my Sex.' ' Instead of think-
 ' ing him criminal, *answer'd Zamea,* I believe him
 ' to be innocent; for his Conduct is so extraordi-
 ' nary, that I cannot help suspecting *Zenorus* to be the
 ' more guilty of the two.' ' Ah! Madam, *interrupted*
 ' *Zalmayda,* the Prince of the *Summer Isles* has ser-
 ' ved me too well, to believe him to have a good
 ' Understanding with his Rival.' ' But, *reply'd Za-*
 ' *mea,* he might without having a Correspondence
 ' with *Alinzor,* have forced him to appear to you so
 ' culpable. The Prince of *Granada* was carried into
 ' the Island of *Desideria,* and pass'd away a long Time
 ' at the Feet of that Fairy, without being false to the
 ' beautiful and unhappy Princess of *Leon*; and your
 ' Lover, by the same Fatality, may have been forc'd
 ' to forget you, without being guilty of Inconstancy.'
 ' I comprehend so little what you tell me, *reply'd*
 ' *Zalmayda,* that I cannot conceive I can find *Alin-*
 ' *zor's* Justification in that which makes his Crime,
 ' and which appears to be very great in what you
 ' mention about the Prince of *Granada.*' ' When I
 ' shall have that great Prince's Leave to inform you
 ' of his Misfortunes, *answer'd the Princess of Fez,* you
 ' will find that you will have more Reason to pity
 ' the Fate of the Prince of *Numidia,* if it is the same
 ' as the Prince of *Granada's,* than to accuse him.'
Adelinda, who came in that Moment, interrupted
 the two Princesses, to tell them that it was late,
 and that the Prince of *Granada* being inform'd by
 his Surgeon that he should be able to get on Horse-
 back

Princess Zalmayda and Alinzor. 43

back in three Days Time, sent to let them know so much. The two Princesses, as soon as they had adjusted themselves, went into the Prince's Chamber, where, after a slight Repast, they spent the rest of the Day in acquainting the Prince of the *Canaries* with the important Adventures of *Elmedorus*; but more especially of those which gave *Zamea* room to take the Prince of *Numidia's* Part. *Zalmayda*, constant to her Hatred, would not listen to what the Princess of *Fez* said to mitigate her Sorrows; and it was as much as the charming Princess could do, to persuade her to stay for her, so impatient was she to end her Afflictions by the Death of her unconstant Lover. The Prince of *Granada*, as earnest to be gone as both these unfortunate Princesses, to finish the Adventure of the Castle, the Prince of *Tunis's* Prison, got out of Bed that Afternoon, and two Days afterwards mounted on Horseback, follow'd by *Zamea* and the Princess of the *Canaries*.

They travel'd all that Day without any Accident; but in the Evening as they were entring upon the King of *Granada's* Territories, they saw in a Valley two Knights fighting with great Animosity. *Elmedorus* spur'd on his Horse to part them, but before he could get to them, one of them, whose Plume was red and green Feathers, had thrown his Enemy to the Ground, and going to him, and putting the Point of his Sword to his Throat, said, ' *Zenorus*, thou Traytor, tell me what thou hast done with my Princess.' ' I seek her as well as you, answer'd the Prince of the Summer Islands, but cannot get any Intelligence of her.' ' Here I am, cry'd *Zalmayda*, (darting at him a Javelin she had in her Hand, and which pierced his Cuirass,) and am come to take away thy Life, to punish thee for all thy Crimes.' The Prince of *Numidia*, surpriz'd at the Sight and Fury of this Princess, and weaken'd by his Wound, fell senseless by his Enemy, while the enraged *Zalmayda*, believing she had kill'd this love-

44 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

by Impostor, was in Despair that her Revenge had succeeded so well.

While *Zamea* was employ'd in comforting the Princess of the *Canaries*, the Prince of *Granada* and his Squire look'd to see if any Signs of Life appear'd in the unfortunate *Alinzor*; and in the mean Time the Princesses Maids did all they could to stop the bleeding of the miserable *Zenorus's* Wounds. 'Forbear to save my Life, said he to them, my Crimes are too great to escape Punishment; and all I ask of the Gods, is Time to confess them.' At that instant the Prince of *Numidia* coming to himself, sought his lovely Enemy with Eyes where Death seem'd to be painted. But the Princess's Hate reviving as the Prince gain'd Strength, she would fain have left the Place where she was divided by two such terrible Passions; when the Prince of the *Summer Isles* raising himself half up to stop her, said with a weak Voice, 'Stay, Madam, stay, and know to whom all your Hatred is due: I alone have been the Cause of all the Misfortunes of your Life; and if Love may serve for an Excuse, now I am going to give up my Accounts to the just Gods, that Passion was the Cause of my Guilt. Jealous of my Rival's Happiness, I sent to him as if from you, to forbid his coming to the Feast of the Sun. And when your Picture reminded him of your Charms, I transported him into the Island of the Fairy *Desideria*, where forcing him to be false, I shew'd him to you under that hateful Appearance. But the last and worst of all my Crimes was that which oblig'd you to seek a Revenge so contrary to your Nature, by raising a Phantom in your Shape when you went to give the Prince *Alinzor* a Meeting, and thought yourself out of my Power. Heaven has this Day punish'd me for all my Deceits by the Hand of that Prince I have so cruelly offended. Live both of ye happily; the Gods satisfied with this miserable Victim, will crown you with Blessings, and for my greater Punishment

Princess Zalmayda and Alinzor. 45

‘ nishment make me declare your Felicity.’ In making an End of these Words, *Zenorus* fainted, and died soon after. The Princess of the *Canaries* pierced with Grief to be the Cause of her dear *Alinzor*’s Death, and to know him innocent, approach’d him crying, and helping *Elmedorus* and *Zamea*, who were binding up his Wounds, bath’d them with her Tears without daring to speak to him. ‘ Why, Madam, said he, do you oppose a Death which is your own Work? And can I have a more glorious one than that which I receive from your own Hand?’ Ah! *Alinzor*, said she, since you are innocent, how guilty am I? And how shall I repair what my jealous Rage has made me do? ‘ These Marks of your Tenderness, reply’d the wounded Prince, are too precious for your Fault. ’Tis I that am criminal, since I appear’d false to you.’ ‘ You are so unable, said *Zamea* to him, to speak with so much Violence, that you may do yourself more Injury than all the Princess’s Rage has done. Let us lay you on a sort of Litter, which the Squires I see are making for you, and carry you to the nearest Cottage we can find.’ *Zalmayda* having thank’d the Princess of *Fez* for her Care, desired *Alinzor* to consent, while the Prince of *Granada* helping the Squires, they mounted on their Horses, and got to a convenient Habitation; where after they had given Orders for the burying *Zenorus*, they laid the wounded Prince upon a Bed; and the Master of the House being one of those skilful Shepherds which *Spain* is so remarkable for, look’d at *Alinzor*’s Wounds, and assured them that he could apply an Herb that should cure him in two Days, provided they would leave him alone the rest of that Day and all the Night to repose himself. *Zamea* made *Zalmayda* consent, who trembling for the Life of this Prince, was loth to leave him.

Being obliged to leave this Habitation, as they were walking out, they met *Alinzor*’s Squire; and being curious to know the Misfortunes of his Mas-
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46 *The Tales of the FAIRIES:*

ter's Life, *Zalmayda* obliged him to give them an Account of his Adventures since she had seen him at the Temple of *Diana*: And setting themselves down on the Grass, the Squire began as follows.



The History of the Prince of Numidia.

AFTER that my Master parted with you, Madam, (*said the Squire, addressing himself to the Princess of the Canaries,*) he labour'd under a most mortal Grief, and not daring to follow you for fear of displeasing you, pass'd his Exile in *Numidia*. But, alas! how long did that Time seem to his Impatience? and how slow did the Summer approach that Year? At last the happy Days drew near, and every Thing was prepared for his Voyage, when one Morning a Messenger brought a Letter to him from you, which he open'd with an Emotion that prefigured his Misfortune, and found these cruel Words,

Zalmayda to the Prince of Numidia.

' SINCE my Return to this Isle, I have been
' inform'd that the Gods threaten my Kingdom
' with Ruin, if I subject my People to a Prince
' whose Laws and Customs are different from ours.
' Let us forget then, Prince, those weak Beginnings
' of a Passion which would be so much against my
' Glory. I have resolv'd, for the Good of my Do-
' minions, to marry Prince *Zenorus*, whose shining
' Merit will support my Crown. Come not, to
' to disturb by your Presence the Pleasure I take in
' this Alliance; and think no more of a Princess,
' who will not remember you, but to desire you
' never to see her more.

Zalmayda.

Yes,

History of the Prince of Numidia. 47

Yes, my ungrateful Princess, (*reply'd the Prince, provoked by your Disdain,*) I will obey you, and shall not envy the Fortune of my unworthy Rival. You may tell your Princess, (*continu'd he, to the Messenger,*) that I am as glad to break my Chains, as I should have been to have made them lasting, if she had known how to have prized her Conquest. After these Words, which his Passion forc'd from him, he dismiss'd the Person that brought this fatal Letter, and retiring to his Closet abandon'd himself to a Despair which made me tremble for his Life. A Month or more slid away after this cruel News, before he could resolve not to love you; but at last ashamed of his Weakness, he made his Addresses to a Princess at his Court; but as his Love seem'd to take its Flight towards you, he never made them but in publick; for his Heart refusing to obey him, could not forget your charming Image.

One Evening when he made an Entertainment for her in the Palace Gardens, and was sitting by her, he saw something fall at her Feet out of the Air, which he immediately took up; but how great was his Surprise, when he saw it was your Picture! Transported with a Passion which all his Reason could not cure, he left that Princess; and hearkening to nothing but his Love, set out for the *Canaries*, without ever so much as remembering that Letter wherein you had forbid him. You know, Madam, how he saw you in your Palace Gardens, but have not been told that the Prince waiting in a green Arbour for *Phenisa*, fell asleep, and when he awoke, found himself in the Island of the Fairy *Desideria*, where he forgot all that happen'd, and was not at all surprized at so beautiful a Place; but walking in those fine Gardens, met a Nymph of admirable Beauty, who going up to him with an obliging Smile, made him desirous to please her. He paid all his Regard to her, and she was not less insensible to him than the Fairy *Desideria* was towards the Prince of *Granada*. But, Sir, (*said*

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48 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

be, addressing himself to that Prince) after you had found out the Means to leave that enchanted Place, the Fairy conceiv'd so great an Aversion for all Men, that she would not suffer any to abide in her Palace, but embark'd them all on board a Vessel, and sent them away. As soon as my Master, Madam, *contin'd be*, left this pernicious Abode, and recover'd out of that Lethargy in which he had been so long lost, he remember'd the Rendezvous you appointed: and willing to justify himself, or die, went a second Time to the *Canaries*, spoke to *Phenisa*, and went into the Labyrinth.

He had not been there an Hour before you came all in Tears: *Alinzor*, said you, since you have been gone I have made the Traitor *Zenorus* confess that he deceiv'd you by a false Letter, and that to prevent my knowing that Crime, he had transported you to the Island of the Fairy *Desideria*; and now, to make us the more miserable, he will force me to marry him: Deliver me out of this frightful Monster's Power, and carry me into your Dominions; and when I am safe, come and take his Life and my Crown. My Prince overjoy'd to see you so ready to follow him, and unwilling to let so happy a Moment slip, after having promised to adore you all his Life, went and unloos'd his Horse which he had ty'd to a Tree, and taking you up behind him, made all the haste he could to get out of the Park, and carried you on board his Ship, and sail'd away for *Numidia*; but as soon as he arriv'd there, you disappear'd. *Alinzor*, in all the Rage imaginable, knew then that *Zenorus* rais'd this Phantom, to send him a great Way off from you, Madam, and exasperated, return'd for the *Canaries*, resolving to let you know his Innocence, and to oblige the perfidious Prince of the *Summer Isles* to acknowledge his Baseness. I attended on him, and was a Witness of his Rage and Fury, when he was inform'd that you was gone, and his Rival had follow'd you. Not *able to abide* long in that fatal Place, he went to
consult

History of the Prince of Numidia. 49

consult the Magnificent Fairy, to know where to find you, and was order'd by her to go for *Granada*. Accordingly we took that Road ; and coming into this Valley, we met *Zenorus*, whom my Prince, transported with Rage, attack'd. You, Madam, was a Witness of the End of that Combat, where, following the Inclinations of your unjust Anger, you thought to have depriv'd yourself of the most faithful Lover in the World.

' You see, my dear *Zalmayda*, said *Zamea*, that I was in the right, when I told you that *Alinzor*, instead of being guilty, seem'd to me to be innocent.' Don't reproach me with my Fault, my fair Princess, said *Zalmayda*, my Punishment is great enough through the mortal Fear I am in, lest my too hasty Hand should have serv'd me but too well.' ' Be not under such cruel Apprehensions for the Prince of *Numidia*, reply'd *Elmedorus*, for I have experienced the Skill of these Shepherds in more dangerous Wounds, but none so glorious as *Alinzor's*.' After this Discourse, these illustrious Adventurers seeing the Night approach, got up to seek for a Place where they might repose themselves. The Princess of the *Canaries* had too different Emotions to combat, to get any Rest : The Pleasure of finding *Alinzor* faithful, gave her a sensible Joy, which could not be balanc'd but by the Fear of losing him ; and Day appeared before she could tell to which of these two Passions she ought to abandon her self. The Princess *Zamea*, who had a sincere Respect for her, and whose own Afflictions would not permit her to taste more of the Sweets of Repose, bore her company. And these two amiable Ladies being told that the Prince of *Granada* was gone to see how the wounded Prince did, made haste to follow him.

Zalmayda enter'd into his Room with trembling, and going to his Bed side, ask'd him, how far'd his Health. ' 'Tis you, Divine Princess, said he, that can inform me, since my Life cannot be in Safety

50 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

• Safety, unless you will assure me to forgive what
 • the Jealousy of *Zenorus* made me to act against my
 • Love.' 'Alas! said *Zalmayda*, I am more to be
 • blam'd than you, and if it were as easy to repair
 • the Mischief I have done you, as to forget past
 • Misfortunes, there would be no occasion for these
 • Tears.' 'Ah! said the Prince, the Hurt receiv'd
 • from your fair Hand is too dear to me; and instead
 • of repining at it, I cherish it.'

The sage Shepherd fearing lest so passionate a
 Conversation might hinder the Effect of his Remedy,
 desired *Elmedorus* and *Zamea* to put a stop to it;
 who, for that End, propos'd a Walk by a River's
 Side in that Valley, while the Prince's Wounds was
 dressing. They had not gone very far before they
 saw a Knight coming towards them, mounted on a
 Horse, which by his being weary, let 'em know the
 little Rest his Master had given him. This Knight's
 Armour was of burnished Steel inlaid with Gold;
 his Helmet adorn'd with a Plume of blue Feathers;
 and on a heavy Shield, which hung on the Bow of
 his Saddle, was a Representation of Mount *Ætna*,
 and this Device, *I burn for ever.*

The good Mien of this Stranger, tho' he appear'd
 very melancholy, inspired the two Princesses with
 Curiosity; and being embolden'd by the Presence
 of the Prince of *Granada*, they went to meet him.
 The Knight, after saluting them, pass'd by them:
 But casting his Eyes on *Elmedorus*, he alighted from
 off his Horse, and went to him. 'Generous Knight,
 • said he, I see the Magnificent Fairy's Promise is
 • fulfill'd, since I have found you in the same Place
 • where she bid me seek you; and I cannot be mis-
 • taken in the Description she gave me of you: You
 • are the Knight who must break the fatal Inchan-
 • ment, by which the cruel *Amerdin* keeps my Prin-
 • cess a Prisoner in a Castle some few Days Journey
 • from hence. 'Tis for you that Honour is reserv'd;
 • for every Thing must yield to the Courage and
 • Constancy of the Prince of *Granada*.' 'Heaven,
 • without

Zalmandor and Amandina. 51

‘ without doubt, *reply’d* Elmedorus, would make me
 ‘ forget my Misfortunes, if their Nature would ad-
 ‘ mit of it, if I should be so happy, obliging Stran-
 ‘ ger, as to restore you your Princess, in fighting
 ‘ for the charming *Zamea*, upon whose Account I
 ‘ am going to undertake the Adventure you propose,
 ‘ as soon as the Wounds of a worthy Prince will
 ‘ permit him to accompany us. Be not angry
 ‘ that your Felicity is retarded for some Days ; and
 ‘ to engage us the more to serve you, inform the
 ‘ Princesses of *Fez* and the *Canary* Islands of the Cause
 ‘ of your Misfortunes : I am sure, generous Knight,
 ‘ you cannot speak before Persons more dispos’d by
 ‘ their own to pity yours.’ The Knight, after ha-
 ving ask’d Pardon of the two Princesses for not
 paying them that Respect which was due to them,
 began the Recital of his Adventures, as soon as
 the illustrious Company had seated themselves on a
 convenient Piece of Ground by the River-side.



The History of the Prince of Mauritania, and the Princess of Castile.

THE Misfortunes of my Life are so great, said
 he, addressing himself to the two Princesses,
 that I should be afraid to trouble you with them,
 but that the Prince of *Granada* has assured me that
 yours have learnt you to pity those whom ill For-
 tune has oppress’d. I am Son to the King of *Mauri-*
tania, and my Name is *Zalmandor*. The first Years
 of my Life I spent like other Princes of my Age ;
 and seeing that my Father was likely to live in
 Peace with his Neighbours, I stole away from Court,
 follow’d only by a Squire in whom I could confide,
 and went abroad to distinguish my self by the Name
 of the *Knight of the Flaming Sword*.

52 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

Having learnt that the King of *Castile* was in War, I went to offer him my Service; which he accepted of with Pleasure. At the same Time there was a young Knight at his Court, whose haughty and majestic Mien drew my Eyes upon him. I know not whether he found any Thing in me worthy his Attention; but I observ'd his Eyes were always fix'd upon me. But in the End, this Disposition which we had to esteem each other, chang'd into a Hatred as durable as our Lives. We saw one another every Day; in Combats our Desires were the same; we both fought after the Victory, or at least to merit equal Praise. The King of *Castile* willing to engage us to him, and for fear one of us should be disgusted, and go over to his Enemy, and turn the Scale of Victory, caress'd us both with equal Friendship: But not knowing who we were, he press'd us one Day so much to tell him, that we were not able to deny him. I acquainted him with my Name and Birth; and the Stranger made himself known for *Armandus* Prince of *Aragon*, and stiled himself the *Knight of Immortal Love*. This Title made me comprehend that he was in Love; and having inform'd myself, learnt that it was with *Amandina* the Princess of *Castile*; that he had lived some Time incognito in that Court, and had seen *Amandina* several Times; whom the King, for some Reasons, would not suffer to marry but to some Prince that was his Subject, and therefore would not permit any Foreigner to make his Addresses to her; and for that End, built a Palace separate from his own, out of which she seldom stirr'd but on publick Occasions. A secret Emotion, of which I could not tell the Cause, vex'd me that the Prince of *Aragon* lov'd the Princess of *Castile*, and made me more desirous to obtain the Friendship of the King.

I was fortunate enough to do him signal Services in that War; and if they did not exceed those done by the Prince of *Aragon*, they were not at least inferior to them. When the Campaign was ended,
we

Zalmador and Amandina. 53

we return'd to *Casile*, without being able to know which of us was the most esteem'd by the King. The Queen and the whole Court came to meet us; and the King, in presenting that Princess to me, told her, in commending me, that none but the Prince of *Arragon* was to be compared with me. The Queen made me a very handsome Compliment; and being acquainted with the Knight of Immortal Love, talk'd very freely with him. When we arrived at the Palace, the King would make me accept of an Apartment as well as *Armandus*; and to shew us how very much he esteem'd us, sent for the Princess his Daughter that Evening. I never in my Life beheld any Thing so charming before: Her Eyes were so bright and lively, that they inflam'd the Heart with the first Glance, and a soft and engaging Air invited to wear her Chains. I found from that instant I could not resist her Charms; and tho' I saw that she answer'd the Tenderness of my Rival with some Bounty, I abandon'd my self to the violent Inclination which forced me to love her, and flatter'd my self, that perhaps *Armandus* might not be so well approv'd by her, but that I might at least be able to have some Share in her Esteem. You will say, Madam, continued *Zalmador*, that I was very rash, or at least very much in Love: But I have experienced that Love has its happy Foresights as well as Fortune; and to succeed the better in my Design, I took another Method than my Rival. I carefully conceal'd my Passion, and made my Addresses to a young Lady at Court: For whom I often made Entertainments and Horse-Races, and neglected no Gallantry that might be of Advantage to me.

The Princess came sometimes to be a Witness of these Diversions I made for *Celdina*, which was the Lady's Name; and I perceiv'd with Joy that she was sometimes very thoughtful; and notwithstanding *Armandus's* Attachment to her, her Eyes reproach'd me for wearing any Chains but he

'54 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

How much did I endure by restraining the Love I bore her ! But the Fear of not having Foundation enough, made me disguise my Passion till a more happy Opportunity. At the same Time I knew that the Prince of *Arragon*, having gain'd one of *Amandina's* Maids, went sometimes to the Palace, and often spoke to the Princess of his Love, without any other Witness but the Confidant ; and that if his Passion was not answer'd with Tenderness, it was heard without Anger. In short, he follow'd herto the Temple and Places of Worship, and was always with her when she appear'd in Publick.

The King began to harbour some Jealousy at this Proceeding ; and notwithstanding the Friendship he had for him, his Policy obliged him to desire him to leave the Court ; which Command the outraged Prince of *Arragon* was forc'd to obey, but not without Resentment : And the King after this thinking himself more secure, seeing that I was engag'd with *Celdina*, gave the Princess more Liberty. She appear'd often in publick, and I was expos'd to the Danger of declaring my Passion. Sometimes my Eyes betray'd me, and were fix'd with so much Tenderness upon the adorable *Amandina*, that she blush'd ; but that delicate Colour seem'd to have nothing that was disobliging in it, but appear'd rather to be the Effect of her Modesty than Anger.

One Evening, when I made a Ball for *Celdina* in a Green-House that belong'd to the Palace-Gardens, after having danc'd very much, I went into an Alley to take a little Nap ; but had not gone very far before I heard somebody talking on the other side of a Palisade : No, *Phedima*, said the Voice, which I knew to be the Princess's, no, I cannot suffer *Celdina*, to have this Advantage over me ; and thou canst not comprehend how much I am chagrin'd that *Zalmador* loves her.' 'I own, Madam, answer'd that Maid, this is a fantastical Humour of yours, if you will forgive the Boldness of the Expression : You permitted the unhappy Prince of *Arragon* to
' make

Zalmandor and Amandina. 55

' make his Addresses to you; you gave him Leave
 ' to hope a Preference before all his Rivals; and
 ' since that the King has forbid him the Court, you
 ' was not displeased when I, without acquainting
 ' you, contrived Ways for him to tell you all the
 ' Grief of his afflicted Soul, for being deprived of
 ' the Liberty of seeing the Object of his Adoration:
 ' Why then, Madam, should you concern your self
 ' at the Care the Prince of *Mauritania* takes to
 ' please the beautiful *Celdina*? And what Matter is
 ' it to you, in whose Hands a Heart falls that you
 ' would never accept of?' ' As I have not hitherto,
 ' *reply'd the Princess*, told thee my true Sentiments,
 ' thou hast Reason to be amaz'd at my Uneasiness.
 ' But, *Phedima*, my Soul is too much oppress'd, not
 ' to seek after the sad Pleasure of complaining:
 ' *Armandus* never had any Share in my Tenderness.
 ' The odd Humour of the King my Father, who,
 ' under the Pretext of I know not what Prediction,
 ' will not let me live like other Princesses of my
 ' Rank, made me desirous to engage one who might
 ' protect me from being sacrificed to a Prince, a Sub-
 ' ject of the Crown I am to wear: The Prince of
 ' *Aragon*, who is Master of himself and his Domi-
 ' nions, seem'd a proper Person for my Design. I
 ' receiv'd his Addresses favourably, and thought
 ' that I might love him: But then I had not seen
 ' *Zalmandor*. As soon as I beheld him, I had no
 ' more than a bare Indifference for *Armandus*.
 ' Some Days I flatter'd my self with having made a
 ' Conquest; and my Heart even flew to meet my
 ' Wishes, till the Entertainments made for *Celdina*
 ' inform'd me how much I have been mistaken. Ah!
 ' *Phedima*, if thou knewst but the Torments of a
 ' proud and ambitious Princess, who thinks she de-
 ' serves to be belov'd, and sees others run away
 ' with the Incense she had promised her self, thou
 ' wouldst own no Pain is so cruel. I was willing
 ' to try if I could not find in *Armandus's* Love
 ' where-withal to make me forget the Affront;

56 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

'fer'd against my Charms: I even affected in those
 'Entertainments, where I was a Witness of my Ri-
 'val's Triumph, to hear the Prince of *Arragon* more
 'favourably. I must confess, I sometimes fancy'd
 'that *Zalmador* was melancholy; and I often sur-
 'priz'd him looking at me with all the Tenderneſs
 'of a Lover. This Evening, this very Evening, my
 'dear *Phedima*, all taken up as he seem'd to be with
 'the happy *Celdina*, his Eyes, full of that Fire
 'which Love affords, were fix'd on mine with so
 'eloquent a Languish, that I could not support his
 'Looks. Nevertheless, I cannot doubt but he loves
 'my Rival.' 'Oh! my dear Princess, said I, no
 'longer able to conceal my self, and throwing my self at
 'her Feet, I love not *Celdina*: You alone have pos-
 'sessed my Soul with that Flame, which none but
 'your fair Eyes could kindle. I pretended only to
 'love her, to deceive the King your Father, and
 'to—— shall I dare to confess it? to make you
 'desirous of making a Conquest of me, notwith-
 'standing the Esteem you had for my Rival. Alas!
 'how much did I endure in that cruel Restraint!
 'How often have I been just going to kill him!
 'But bridling those Transports, for fear of shewing
 'my Passion, I return'd to *Celdina*; and this Day
 'Fortune, favourable to my Love, conducted me hi-
 'ther. Be not angry, my adorable Princess, at
 'what I have heard. Let us no longer restrain our
 'selves; and accept of an Heart which never wore
 'any other Chains than yours.' 'Zalmador, reply'd
 'the Princess, I cannot deny my Weakness, since
 'you have heard it: But to merit that I should
 'make a Confession of it to your self, and to sacrifice
 'the Prince of *Arragon* for you, you must give me
 'Proofs that you don't love my Rival, and slight her
 'as much as you have made her triumph before my
 'Eyes; and when by a Negligence as publick as
 'your Love, I have no Reason to doubt of your
 'Sincerity, perhaps I may then forget the unhappy
 'Armandus.' 'Ah! Madam, cry'd I, you love my
 'Rival

‘ Rival more than you think, since you are so unwilling to discard him; and your Vanity has the greatest Share in what you pronounce in my Favour.’ ‘ What you say, may be, *reply’d the Princess angrily*: But now you know on what Conditions I place my Esteem, you must submit to them, if you would oblige me to grant you any Thing more.’ After these Words, she return’d to the Ball; and I, to shew her that I knew how to obey her, never went nigh *Celdina*, but went away the first of that Assembly, that I might not hand her to her Apartment.

But willing to have a little more Discourse with the Charming *Amandina* before she got into her Palace, I waited for her in a Flower-Garden, into which her Closet-Window look’d. But I had not been there above an Hour before I perceived my Rival, and *Phedima* leaving the Princess to go to speak to him. I could not hear what she said to him, because I had hid myself behind a Bush of Honey-Suckles. But soon after I saw the Closet Window open, and the Prince of *Arragon* talking to a Person who looked out of it for half an Hour, whom I took to be the Princess. I had like twenty Times to have forfeited all my Respect to my jealous Rage; but at last I waited till *Armandus* was got both out of the Palace and the Town; and overtaking him just as he was going to take Horse, said to him, ‘ Sir, you cannot disobey the King’s Commands, and not make me your mortal Enemy, who must force you to Obedience.’ I could not have thought, *reply’d Armandus*, that such Princes as you were the King of *Castile*’s Spies; and that this Part could be pardonable in *Zalmador*, as being a Lover of the Princess.’ ‘ Whether as a Lover of the Princess, *answer’d I, clapping my Hand upon my Sword*, or as the King’s Friend, I shall not suffer you to stay any longer here.’ ‘ Let me see then, *said he, putting himself upon his Guard*, if you can execute this generous Design.’ At the

58 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

Words we began a Combat, which would have been perhaps fatal to me, if the Prince of *Arragon's* Sword had not broke. After which I retir'd; and seeing his Servants coming towards us, left him with them to take care of their Master's Wound, which he had receiv'd in his Thigh; who, that he might not be known, order'd them to carry him some Miles from the Town, which he had chose for his Retreat.

As we had no other Witnesse of our Duel but our Domesticks, it was kept secret a long Time, and no body knew of it but the Princess, who learnt it from *Phedima*, whom *Armandus* had inform'd of it. She reproach'd me the first Time that I saw her: But as this Action was a Mark of my Passion, she pardon'd me; but would not promise to banish my Rival. In the mean Time, the Care I took to avoid *Celdina* in all Places, for whom I had shewn so much Respect, was observ'd by all the Court; and as she was a Relation of the Queen's, she was angry with me. I told her, that the Orders which I had receiv'd lately from the King my Father, who did not approve of that Alliance, oblig'd me to conceal the Sentiments I entertain'd for that beautiful Lady, for fear he should command me to come home. For *Celdina*, as she was proud, and I had the Misfortune not to displease her, and she had flatter'd herself with being one Day Queen of *Mauritania*, she could not hearken to such weak Reasons, but soon guess'd at the true Cause of my Change: She conceiv'd so great a Jealousy, that she told the King, the Prince of *Arragon* had not left the Kingdom, but had a Design to steal away the Princess; that I was his Rival; and that we fought the Day of the Ball: Which she knew from one of my Domesticks, who gave her a faithful Account of all my Actions.

The King alarm'd at this News, sent to make the unhappy *Armandus* a Prisoner, and confin'd him in a Castle that commanded the Town; and ordered the

Zalmandor and Amandina. 59

the Queen not to let the Princess stir any more out of the Palace ; but doubled the Guards. He said nothing to me, for fear he should have occasion for me in his War, he having only made a Truce for a Year ; but set Spies over me, who gave him an Account of every Step I took. All these Changes gave me a mortal Grief. I was in despair for the Misfortune I had caused my Rival to undergo, thro' my imprudent Anger, and for having deprived my self of the little Liberty I had sometimes of seeing the adorable *Amandina*. But as Love is ingenious, I found out a way to get into a little Wood, into which the Windows of her Apartment look'd, and where she used sometimes to walk. I was there two Days before I could see her : But one Evening, when it was very hot, she came to take a little fresh Air, attended only by *Phedima*. I went to meet her, and was going to ask her Pardon for my Boldness : But that Princess, without giving me Time to speak, said ; ‘ *Zalmandor*, you ought to be content with the ‘ Mischiefs you have been the Cause of, without ‘ coming to create new ones. How angry would ‘ the King be, if he knew that you come into this ‘ Palace, and at a Time when no body is allow’d to ‘ come near me but my Women. What Right have ‘ you to slight his Commands, who knows so well ‘ how to make them to be obey’d ? ’ ‘ If your ‘ Heart, Madam, *said I*, was not prepossessed in the ‘ Favour of my happy Rival, you cannot lay my ‘ not being able to suffer his Happiness as a Crime ‘ to my Charge ; and if you had any little Bounty ‘ for me, you would soon find an Excuse for me in ‘ what I have done to-day. But, too cruel Princess, the Care I have taken to draw the Hatred of ‘ *Celdina* upon me, does not affect you : You are ‘ pleased with that remarkable Effect of your ‘ Charms, but have no Regard for the Person.’ ‘ You are very unjust, *said Amandina*, to reproach ‘ me thus : You know me but very little, *Zalmandor* ‘ if you believe the Sacrifices can be agreeable,

60 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

‘ the Hand that offers them be not dear to me : ’Tis
 ‘ that makes me support my Confinement without
 ‘ murmuring. Be faithful, and depend on me for
 ‘ a Recompence. I own I am very much concern’d
 ‘ for the Prince of *Arragon’s* Misfortunes, and am
 ‘ sorry to see him imprison’d by my Father, and
 ‘ wish I could restore him to Liberty; but not to
 ‘ receive his Love any more, since I am resolv’d to
 ‘ partake of your Chains, and not hearken any more
 ‘ to his Sighs. Assist me to free him from those
 ‘ Chains my Father loads him with, and I promise
 ‘ you to forbid him wearing of mine.’ ‘ Whatever
 ‘ Danger there may be, Madam, *answered I*, I will
 ‘ make use of all my Power. But, divine Princess,
 ‘ remember that this Prince——’ ‘ I shall only re-
 ‘ member, *said she*, what relates to the tender In-
 ‘ clination I have for you, if you know how to serve
 ‘ me as I would be serv’d.’ After these Words she
 order’d me to retire, without giving me any Time
 to say any more; but did not forbid me from com-
 ing again: And I knew so well how to make use of
 this Indulgence, that I saw her every Evening.
 Ye Gods! what new Charms did I discover in these
 private Conversations; and how much did I bless
 Heaven for my Happiness! But in these Transports
 I did not forget my Rival, tho’ all my Intercessions
 were in vain: The King would not hear of his
 Liberty; and though the Queen, who loved this
 Prince, made use of all her Interest, it was to no
 purpose.

Armandus was no sooner cured of his Wound,
 but he found out a Way to make his Escape by a
 Window that look’d into the Fields, and which
 was so high and dangerous, that it was thought
 needless to secure it with Iron Bars. The first Use
 he made of his Liberty, was to see the Princess;
 and to that End got to speak to *Phedima*, who, hav-
 ing always favour’d him, hid him in *Amandina’s*
 Closet, and when that Princess was alone, brought
 him into her Chamber. The Princess was very
 much

Zalmador and Amandina. 61

much surprized to see him, and very glad that he was out of the King's Power: But reflecting on what might befall him, if he should be taken, ' *Armandus, said she*, the Gods can bear me witness how much I have been concern'd at your Imprisonment, and what I would have done to have set you at Liberty. Heaven has seconded my Wishes: Be not so obstinate as to stay in a Place so fatal to your Repose, since the Danger is greater than at first, but return to *Arragon*; and if you have any Friendship for me, forgive, for the Respect I bare you, the Injury my Father has done, and think not of Revenge.' 'To be sure of my Obedience, Madam, *answer'd Armandus*, you must not let me go; for while I see my Princess, I can never hate the Author of her Birth: But I cannot assure you, if you are so cruel as to banish me, I can forget the ill Treatment I have received.' 'You cannot stay here, *reply'd Amandina*, without being discover'd; and I cannot see you without being the most unhappy Person of my Sex.' 'Alas! Madam, *interrupted the Prince of Arragon*, you had none of these frightful Foresights when you shew'd me some Bounty. Without doubt *Zalmador*, who by fighting me shew'd me too plainly how much he was my Rival ——' ' *Armandus, said the Princess*, not giving him Time to make an End of what he was going to say, the Prince of *Mauritania* has no part in the Intreaty I make you; my Duty alone, and the Fear of being the Cause of your Death, oblige me to it; tho', to hide nothing from you, that Prince is dear enough to me, to prefer him before all the World.' 'Then I have nothing to do but die, *reply'd Armandus*, since you pronounce the Sentence of my Death.' At the same Time the Prince in a Rage drew his Sword, and had pierced his Breast, if *Phedima* and the Princess had not taken it from him. After which he ran out of *Amandina's* Apartment, and went and pass'd the Night in an empty House.

62 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

The next Morning he sent me a Challenge, and appointed the Place ; where I met him, attended only by this Squire you see along with me ; and without asking him the Occasion of this second Duel, we engag'd, and I was so happy as to be victorious again ; for the Prince of *Arragon* growing weak by the Loss of Blood from two Wounds, fainted, and fell. My Squire and I carried him to the first House we could come to, sent for a Surgeon, who soon stopp'd the Bleeding of his Wounds, which were large, but not very dangerous. As soon as he was come to himself, I went to his Bed-side ; ' Generous Prince, *said I*, since Fortune has given me the Victory, which you was as deserving of as my self, give me Leave to shew you, by the Care I shall take to supply you with all Necessaries in a Place where every one's your Enemy, that, if you cannot love me, since our Love for the Princess of *Castile* is the Obstacle, I merit your Esteem.' ' Brave *Zalmandor*, *said he*, to acknowledge your Generosity, I ought to yield our Divine Princess to you ; but I cannot promise you that : Therefore to get rid of an Enemy whose Life is incompatible with yours, leave me to finish my unhappy Days. You have robb'd me of the Heart of the ungrateful *Amandina* ; be not so cruel as to force me to be a Witness of your Happiness.' ' I don't know, *said I*, whether you have not a greater Share of that Princess's Esteem than my self : But however it be, let us be determined by her Choice, and not by our Duels deprive her of two faithful Lovers ; and if you truly love her, dispose not, without her Orders, of a Life that belongs to her.' *Armandus* agreed to this Proposal, and promised to endure whatsoever should be necessary for his Cure ; and after that I return'd to the Town, for fear of being suspected.

When I came to Court, I found the King in a terrible Passion at the Prince of *Arragon's* Escape. He gave out strict Orders to take him where they should

Zalmandor and Amandina. 63

should find him ; which made me so much afraid lest they should discover him, that I went to the Princess in the Evening, to beg her to send *Phedima*, to command him to suffer himself to be convey'd into *Arragon* ; which he resisted a long Time, and at last consented ; and for which purpose I provided a Litter ; but durst not accompany him myself, lest the Sight of me might not be over agreeable to him.

During this Time the King fell sick, and dy'd within eight Days ; and the Queen, with grieving, follow'd him within a Month after. The Princess, notwithstanding the King's Severity, was so much afflicted for the Loss of them, that I was in Pain for her Life ; and but for the Tenderness she had for me, her Tears had not been so soon dry'd up : But at last she yielded to my Intreaties, and the Desires of the People, who acknowledg'd her for their Queen with all Acclamations of Joy. *Celdina*, whose Hatred was not in the least diminish'd, seeing then no Obstacle to our Happiness, had recourse to the Sorcerer *Amerdin*, whom you all know to be so bitter an Enemy to Mankind, that he employs all his Science to make them unhappy, and of their Tears forms a Rivulet, by which he works the most cruel Enchantments. That wicked Wretch, overjoy'd to have a new Subject to exercise his Rage, stole the Princess away one Day, and carry'd her to a fatal Castle, where he keeps so many Princes and Princesses enchanted, making them undergo so many thousand different Punishments. Never was Grief equal to mine, when I found myself depriv'd of my dear *Amandina*. I would have made *Celdina's* Life pay for her cruel Revenge ; but ashamed to stain my Hands in a Woman's Blood, I ran after my Princess, and arriv'd at the fatal Castle. I staid there some Days, but could not, either by my Intreaties or Menaces, get any body to answer me. At last, inrag'd at my Fortune, I went to seek that adorable Fairy, whose greatest Pleasur

64 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

is to assist the Unfortunate, who ordered me to wait for you here, and assured me, that the Power of punishing *Amerdin*, and setting so many illustrious Persons at Liberty, was reserv'd for you alone.

Here the Prince of *Mauritania* finish'd his Relation with a deep Sigh ; which affected *Elmedorus* so much, that he promis'd him afresh to expose his Life to restore him his belov'd *Amandina* ; and the Princesses, after getting up, and thanking him for the Trouble they had given him in telling his Adventures, return'd all together to the Prince of *Nu-midia*, to whom they presented the Prince of *Mau-ritania*. The skilful Shepherd having cur'd *Alinzor* in two Days, as he had promis'd, all those illustrious Persons set forward for *Amerdin's* Castle, after having first recompens'd their charitable Host ; and at the first Town they arriv'd, the Princesses of the *Canaries* and *Phenisa* reassum'd Woman's Apparel, having no Reasons to oblige them to conceal their Sex any longer. They pursu'd their Journey for several Days, without any Thing remarkable happening ; when one Morning, as they had alighted from off their Horses to refresh themselves by a River's Side, they perceiv'd a little Galley, with several Rowers, who were gallantly dress'd, and a Nymph, like one of *Diana's*, sat on Cushions of green Velvet embroider'd with Gold at the upper End, who seem'd to look earnestly towards the River-side.

So agreeable a Sight presently gain'd the Princesses Attention. The Nymph, when she was near the Shore, came to the Side of the Galley ; and addressing herself to *Elmedorus*, said, ' Prince of *Grana-da*, the Magnificent Fairy, whose Abode is not
' far from hence, sends me to tell you, she desires
' to see you, and all this amiable Company, before
' you attempt the Adventure of *Amerdin's* Castle.
' She can restore to you the fatal Ring given you
' by *Zamat*, and by which alone you will be able,

‘ to break the Enchantments of the cruel Magician,
 ‘ and enjoy an Happiness you hope not for. Fear
 ‘ not, *said she*, (seeing he was unresolv’d what to
 ‘ do,) that this is any Artifice of the Fairy *Deside-*
 ‘ *ria’s*, since she that sends me has no need of any
 ‘ other Charms than those of her Beauty to create
 ‘ Love, and wants to see you only to make you
 ‘ happy.’ The Prince, asham’d of this Reproach,
 offer’d his Hand to the Princess of the *Canaries*, who
 happen’d to be first, to help her into the Galley,
 and after all the Company had embark’d, went in
 himself, and put off for the Magnificent Island,
 where they soon after arriv’d. Nothing could be
 compar’d to it for Grandeur; every Thing shone
 with Gold and Jewels, and the plainest Houses were
 built with Marble and Porphyry: The Inhabitants
 were sensible of the Effects of their Sovereign’s
 Magnificence, and nothing was to be seen but what
 was very stately. The Princes and Princesses could
 not bear the Lustre of the Palace, which was built
 of clear Chrystals, and adorn’d with Columns of
 Gold; the Apartments within were answerable to
 the outward Beauty; and that of the Fairy’s was
 so bright with precious Stones, that it dazzled the
 Eyes to behold it.

• The Fairy receiv’d them at the Door of her own
 Chamber, and without borrowing any Thing from
 Art to heighten her Beauty, she appear’d the chief
 Handy-work of Nature. Her Shape exceeded all
 that was Human, and her Features were so per-
 fect, that it would be impossible to draw them,
 without robbing them of some Charm; all which,
 with a Majesty attended by an engaging Sweetness,
 render’d her compleatly adorable. The Princesses
 paid her all the Respect due to a Goddess, by pro-
 strating themselves at her Feet, whom she rais’d up
 with Bounty; and having embrac’d them, said to
 the Prince of *Granada*, ‘ I have so much Esteem
 ‘ for your Vertue, that I will restore you your
 ‘ Ring which you lost; but before you do me
 ‘

66 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

‘ considerable a Piece of Service, as the Destruction
of *Amerdin’s* Castle, it will be just for me to make
you the Request my self.’ ‘ I ought not, *Madam*,
said Elmedorus, to regret my sad Days, if they can
be any ways serviceable to you; and the unfortun-
ate *Azayda* cannot complain of my deferring the
revenging of her, if I am so happy as to give you
any Proof of my Respects.’ ‘ You will revenge *Al-*
zayda in serving me, *reply’d the Fairy*, and will find
that lovely Lady in the same Place where you
shall punish the wicked *Asmonadus*.’ ‘ Ah? *Ma-*
dam, *cry’d the amorous Prince of Granada*, how much
do you flatter me? Is my Princess living? And
can I hope to see those bright Eyes again declare
my Happiness?’ ‘ Perhaps, *reply’d the Fairy*, *smi-*
ling, my Oracles may not be certain.’ ‘ Oh! *Ma-*
dam, *said Elmedorus*, I cannot doubt of them, they
promise me a Blessing too invaluable not to hope
them true.’ After these Words, the Fairy fear-
ing that the Princesses might want a little Repose,
had them conducted into an Apartment, where they
found Nymphs, who offer’d them magnificent Hab-
its, which the Fairy made them Presents of; to
please whom, they dress’d themselves, that they
might not offend her by a careless Negligence of
themselves. But how charm’d was the Prince of
Numidia with his Choice, when he saw the Prin-
cess of the *Canaries* enter the Fairy’s Chamber,
and how beautiful did he find her in that new
Dress? The Fairy said a great many fine Things of
her as well as the Princess *Zamea*; and after hav-
ing spent best part of the Day in a delightful Con-
versation, that adorable Princess carry’d them into
the Gardens, which were so wonderful fine, that
Nature and Art seem’d to vie with each other;
where, after walking some Time, they went to
rest themselves in a large Arbour of Myrtle and
Pomgranate-Trees, in the midst of which stood a
Statue of Juno, holding forth in her Hands a great
many Crowns, which form’d curious Fountains.
Here

Magnificent Fairy and Salmacis. 67

Here the Fairy entertained them with a fine Concert of Musick, which agreeably surpriz'd them ; and after that had play'd half an Hour, she began to talk to *Elmedorus* about his Enterprize, and to give him Advice for his better Condu&t, by which he, and all that illustrious Company, perceiv'd a secret Interest she had in that Undertaking ; and *Zamea*, more bold than the rest, told her, ' That she was perswaded that the Prince of *Granada* would accomplish that dangerous Enterprize ; but, to induce him to neglect nothing, begg'd that she would have the Goodness not to conceal from him the Part she took in it.' *Zalmayda* back'd the Princess of *Eez* in this Request ; and the Princes, by their respectful Silence, shew'd, that they were no less desirous than those fair Princesses. The magnificent Fairy granted what they press'd her so earnestly for, but could not resolve to be present at the relating of her own History ; therefore rose up, and order'd *Celina*, one of her Nymphs, to satisfy their Curiosity ; who, in Obedience to her Commands, as soon as she was gone, gave it them in these Words:



The History of the Magnificent Fairy and Prince Salmacis.

' **Y** O U all know, without doubt, said *Celina*,
' *addressing herself to the Princesses*, that the magnificent Fairy is the Daughter of *Venus*, and the
' Great King *Poliander*, since she inherits the Beauty of that Goddess, and the Grandeur and Majesty of the King her Father ; who was so very
' fond of her, that he made her a Sovereign Princess as soon as she was capable of governing, and
' gave her this Island ; and *Venus*, to make her th

68 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

' more powerful, render'd her one of the greatest
 ' Fairies in *Europe*. Her Science she employs, in
 ' completing the Happiness of all who are unfor-
 ' tunate, and therefore is sought after and ador'd
 ' by all the World. In this Court there liv'd a
 ' Prince, nam'd *Salmacis*, whose Merit, Beauty,
 ' Wit, and Courage, made him the Admiration of all
 ' that knew him; and tho' Fortune deny'd him those
 ' Crowns his Ancestors had worn, his Merit was not
 ' less, but too plainly prov'd Fortune to be blind
 ' as well as Love; and it is not surprizing that he,
 ' who was such as I represent him, or, if possible,
 ' more charming, should gain the Hearts of all the
 ' Nymphs of that bright Court. But the Height of
 ' all his Glory was, that the Divine Fairy look'd
 ' upon him with a favourable Eye, and conceiv'd
 ' an Inclination for him, which she conceal'd with
 ' Pain. Her Pride dictat'd to her, that as a Daugh-
 ' ter of *Venus* and King *Poliander*, and Queen of a
 ' flourishing Empire, she ought not to look upon
 ' *Salmacis*, who was her Subject.

Without doubt the Greatness of the Fairy hin-
 der'd the Prince from offering up his Vows to her,
 and made him discover Charms in a young beautiful
 Lady, whose Name was *Ismira*, for whom he sigh'd
 not long in vain. *Ismira*, flatter'd with the Vanity
 of having the Preference before all the other La-
 dies of the Court, return'd his Love with equal
 Passion, and glory'd so much in her Conquest, that
 she in no wise disguised her Tenderness. *Salmacis*,
 in the Height of Felicity, could not live a Moment
 from his charming Nymph; every Thing was insup-
 portable to him when she was absent, and the
 Time that he was oblig'd to pay his Respects to the
 Fairy, robb'd him of two many precious Moments;
 and, to be short, he was never seen in publick, but
 when he waited on *Ismira*. Every Day he found
 out something or other to divert her, and spent a
great Part of every Night in serenading her with
the best Musick.

Magnificent Fairy *and* Salmacis. 69

So much Love offended the Queen, who if she could not overcome the Inclination she had for *Salmacis*, she was so much Mistress of herself as to conceal it, as long as he forbore to make his Addresses to another; but as soon as Jealousy rous'd up her Tenderness, she became thoughtful, uneasy, and melancholy; and as her Passion was a Secret to the World, she was every Moment hearing of her Rival's Happiness; till at last, being unable to keep these cruel Passions lock'd up in her Breast, she said to me one Day, ' *Celina*, is it true, that ' *Salmacis* loves *Ismira* with so much Tenderness?' ' Madam, *answer'd I*, (having perceiv'd that the ' Prince was not indifferent to her,) *Ismira* is only ' belov'd by Prince *Salmacis*, because he dares not ' look on a Person in this Court who far excels her.' ' And who do you think more amiable than that ' Nymph?' *said the Fairy*. ' If you would permit me ' to tell you, Madam, *reply'd I*, I should say the ' magnificent Fairy exceeds her both in Beauty ' and Birth.' ' Alas! *Celina*, *said she*, how little acquainted are you with the Power of Love, if you ' believe it is govern'd by Reason! *Salmacis* sees ' none so perfect as the happy *Ismira*; and I am ' sure, in his Eyes, she would prevail before the ' Goddess my Mother.' ' I cannot tell, *answer'd I*, ' whether he would think her more beautiful than ' that Goddess; but I know that all his Love for ' this Nymph does not hinder him from praising ' you with Exaggeration; and I'll answer for him, ' Madam, that he only pays his Addresses to *Ismira*, ' to secure himself from being so unhappy as to ' find you too worthy of his Adorations.' ' Alas! ' *Celina*, *said she*, how little Reason has he to fear ' that Misfortune, and how pleas'd should I be to ' let him know, that if his Birth keeps him at too ' great a Distance from my Throne, his Merit approaches too near my Heart! But why should I ' flatter my Grief with so deceitful an Idea, when ' I see him so much taken with my Rival? *Repr*

70 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

' sent him to me with all the Colours of the black-
 ' est Ingratitude; tell me that notwithstanding all
 ' the Kindness I have for him, he would not hear-
 ' ken to it, but to make a Sacrifice of it to *Ismira*,
 ' whom, tho' she has no Crowns to offer him, he
 ' makes to triumph over my Tenderness for him.
 ' All this I can sooner forgive, than his having
 ' look'd so little at me, not to know all that pass'd
 ' in my Soul. 'Tis this cruel Indifference I would
 ' punish severely, but for sacrificing me to my Ri-
 ' val, I accuse Love: That blind Boy disposes of us
 ' with so much Power, that he does not suffer us to
 ' know any other Happiness than that which he
 ' offers us, how precious soever that may be
 ' which he makes us neglect.'

Tho' *Salmacis* was much more guilty, *reply'd I*,
 than you make him to be, yet I cannot help think-
 ing that your Power draws a Veil over his Eyes in
 regard to your Perfections; and dazzled with the
 Lustre of your Throne, he dares not approach you:
 And tho' he might perceive you gave him some fa-
 vourable Looks, he might be cautious how he ex-
 plain'd them, for fear of rendring himself criminal.
 O how little 'acquainted are you, *said the Fairy*,
 with the Mysteries of the God my Brother! If *Sal-*
macis had that tender Inclination for me, he which
 makes my Life so burdensome to me, he would
 have forgot my being his Sovereign; and the long
 Race of Kings from whom he takes his Descent,
 would have made him think himself equal with the
 greatest Princes; and his Love rendering him bold-
 er, he would have sigh'd loud enough to have been
 heard. He would have been rash enough to have
 explain'd my Looks, and charm'd to have seen the
 same Fire sparkle in them which rag'd in his
 Heart. — But *Celina*, the Happiness of learning
 him so charming a Language, is reserv'd only for
Ismira. How pleasantly do they pass away their
time! Nothing interrupts their Tenderness. Have
 a care, too happy Lovers, continu'd the Queen, of
 making

Magnificent Fairy *and* Salmacis. 71

making your Fate too adorable, before I have determined of mine. Perhaps, provoked by Jealousy, I may take a Pleasure in rendring you as miserable as myself; I may make you answer for all those unworthy Sighs that have escaped from my weak foolish Heart, and you may shed Tears to dry up mine. But whither, unhappy Princess, does thy Passion carry thee? For what Crime would'st thou punish them? What reason hast thou to complain of thy Rival? Is not she ignorant of thy Love? And was the insensible *Salmacis* obliged to understand it? And suppose he did, dost thou not know by Experience that thou art not Master enough of thy own Heart, to force it away from the Object where-with it is taken? Why would'st thou then have them do more than thou art able thyself? Hast thou less Virtue than these Lovers? Permit them then to love, since they may with Innocence; and to punish thee for harbouring Thoughts of separating them, be a Witness of their Pleasures —

Some Ambassadors coming just then for their Audience, and the Queen being told they waited, went to receive them; and I in the mean time went to take a Turn or two in the Gardens, where I met the Prince. My Pensiveness, and the Air of Concern that appeared in my Face, made *Salmacis* ask me what was the matter with me, and if Love made me so melancholy. I told him laughing, that that God had undoubtedly some Share in my Musings, and that I was thinking on the Fantasticalness of his Empire. Let me know, *said the Prince*, whether you have any Reason to accuse him, and of what it is that you complain. You have more Cause to complain yourself, Sir, *said I, looking earnestly upon him*; for if Love had not blindfolded you, there are few Princes who might be so happy as yourself; and I doubt, whether the Favours you receive from *Ismira*, may equal those you have lost. Since you speak so mystically, *said the Prince, with some Confusion*, I conjure you, *Celina*, to explain your

72 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

self, or perhaps you may make me guilty of Crimes that may cost me my Life. Sir, *said I*, such Princes as you never can, when they make choice of Goddesses for the Subject of their Vows: *Venus* loved *Anchises*—— After these Words I left him to go to the Queen, whom I perceived at the End of the Alley wherein we walk'd.

Ever after this Conversation, *Salmacis*, who understood well enough what I meant, saw the Fairy every Day, and appear'd sometimes confused and thoughtful. He no longer valued *Ismira's* Charms, he made no Entertainments for her, his Visits were less frequent, and every body took notice of this Change. She herself grew jealous, but was resolv'd to discover her Rival before she spoke to her Lover. In the mean time, the Fairy observing the Assiduities of the Prince, never doubted but I had told him. *Celina*, *said she*, you have betray'd me; *Salmacis* knows my Weakness: his Sighs and Looks tell me so; for if you had not said something to him, he durst not have been so bold. 'Tis Love renders him so, *reply'd I*, and not my Discourse with him: That little God has discover'd to him that Inclination which gives you that Esteem for him, as to think him worthy of your Chains. But *Celina*, *said she again*, the Prince does not love me; *Ismira* is the Object of his Tenderness, and Love cannot let him know what passes in my Heart, since he has none for me. It may be, Madam, *answer'd I*, he does not love that Lady, but endeavours only, as I told you before, to prevent the Misfortune of finding you too Charming, and some one Look of yours may have inform'd him, that his Constraint is to no purpose.

The Prince, who came in just as I was speaking, made the Queen blush so much, that he stood like one thunderstruck; and I, to give them an Opportunity to explain themselves, said, The Prince here can give you a better Account of what you ask, than myself. Can I be so happy, Madam, *reply'd*
Sal

Magnificent Fairy and Salmacis. 73

Salmacis, to know any thing that merits your Curiosity? *Celina*, said the Fairy, blushing again, is sometimes so much out of the Way, that one must not always mind what she says; and what I ask'd of her is not worth any further Information. It is worth so much, Madam, reply'd I, that it may give you a little more Confidence again in what I have the Honour to tell you; therefore I desire I may acquaint the Prince with the Subject of our Dispute. *Celina*, said the Queen, I chuse rather to believe you, than that you should take Prince *Salmacis* for a Second. Well, Madam, then, said I, I am very well satisfy'd that you give Credit to my Words, and the Prince ought to be so too. *Celina*, reply'd *Salmacis*, who comprehended by the Queen's Confusion that we were talking of him, has always been so much my Friend, that after what I have heard her say, I am sure I ought to return you Thanks for the Belief you have in her Discourse. It happens sometimes, that the great Respect we have for Persons whom we adore, obliges us to be silent; and without the favourable Assistance of a good Friend, we die before we dare declare that which is the Cause. You see, Madam, said I, laughing, that Love takes care to explain my Riddles, and the Prince— Hold your Tongue, said the Fairy, who chuse rather to be angry with me than her Lover, and do not force the Prince to say what he does not think. I ought to punish you for his Rashness; had it not been for you, he would neither have offended me nor *Ismira*. Ah! Madam, said *Salmacis*, forgive *Celina's* Compassion for a miserable Prince. If it is a Crime to adore you, I am most guilty. Consumed by a Passion which I have concealed with Care, believing my Flame unworthy of the Author of its Birth, I pass my unhappy Days in complaining of Heaven for having made you so perfect, that no Mortal dare love you without Rashness: For who, Madam, can presume to adore you with that Stock of Beauty and Virtue that gives you the Preference before the

74 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

Goddeſs your Mother? *Salmacis, ſaid the Fairy,* you certainly forget that you are ſpeaking before me, or at leaſt think me very indulgent. Forbear to perſuade me to what you don't think, and force me not to baniſh you for your Raſhneſs as well as Deceit. Can you hope that I am the only Perſon in my Court who is ignorant of your Love for *Iſmira*? And how would you have me receive ſo profane an Incenſe? I have not profaned mine, Madam, *reply'd the Prince,* but offer it you as pure as that which burns on the Altars of the Queen of Love. Reproach me not with my Love for *Iſmira*, ſince you, Divine Fairy, forced me to it. Vex'd with myſelf for conceiving a Paſſion which I name Sacrilege, I made my Addreſſes to that Nymph, to diſengage myſelf from ſo dangorous a Chain. I thought for ſomeTime that I had found in her Kindneſs for me that Succour ſo neceſſary to my Quiet; but one Glance from your Eyes, perhaps, undeſignedly caſt on me, has diſturbed a-new the Happineſs of my Life. Pleaſed with the Love I have for my Queen, I cannot live without her, and, Madam, *continued he, throwing himſelf at her Feet,* 'tis in your Power to diſpoſe of my Fate: And if my Vows are not to be accepted, to ſave you the Trouble of puniſhing me, I will pierce before your Face this unhappy Heart, which has render'd me ſo guilty. *Salmacis, ſaid the Fairy, raiſing him up,* incroach not upon my Rights; leave to me the Care of making choice of a Chaiſement which you deſerve: Without attempting any Thing upon your Life, I can find other Ways to revenge myſelf; but like an impartial Judge I have examined your Crime, and find your Raſhneſs merits a Punishment more mild than your Treason. After theſe Words ſhe took her Leave of the Prince, and would not hear him ſay any more. When we were alone, ſhe made me ſome Reproaches, which I knew proceeded more from her Modesty than Anger. The Prince from that Day growing bold, never ſaw the Queen but

Magnificent Fairy and Salmacis. 75

he entertain'd her with his Passion, and knew so well how to persuade her that he did not love *Ismira*, that she permitted him to Sigh, and to hope his Sighs might have their desired Effect.

A Fate so much to be envy'd, ought to have made *Salmacis* forget *Ismira*, whatever Charms that beautiful Maid was Mistress of; but the Reproaches she made him when she knew who was that formidable Rival who had robb'd her of her Lover's Heart, brought him to her again. He visited her every Day, and endeavour'd to persuade her that it was his Interest that obliged him to wait so much upon the Queen: But *Ismira*, not satisfied with these weak Excuses, and knowing moreover the Power she had over him, told him, that she could not resolve with herself to stay, and be a Witness of her Rival's Happiness, but would go and live retir'd at a House she had at the furthest Part of the Island. The Prince concern'd at this Resolution, and to prevent her going, swore a thousand Oaths that he would never love any other but her; with which the cunning *Ismira* seem'd well satisfied; but the next Morning, as soon as it was Day, she went, knowing well enough that while the Prince saw the Queen, she must yield to that dangerous Rival, and that if she left the Court, he would follow her. Which Notion of hers was very just; for as soon as *Salmacis* understood she was gone, he immediately posted after her. 'What! cruel *Ismira*, said he, do you forsake me? What! would you break those Chains which you have sworn so often should be as durable as Life?' 'Sir, reply'd that Maid, with Tears in her Eyes, 'tis not I who break them; you know, unjust Prince, the Pleasure I take in wearing them with you, and what I have done to make them light. How often have you, pleas'd with the Happiness of loving, and being beloved, prefer'd your Fate to that of the Gods.' 'But that charming Time is no more; the bright Lustre of a Crown has surprized your Tend

'ness, and you can no longer think yourself blest'd
 'but by a Mistress who can add Power and Gran-
 'deur to Love: Follow that blind Divinity, and
 'leave me to preserve the Remembrance of that
 'too-happy Time. Faithful to my Tenderness, I
 'shall only remember those Moments when you
 'deserved so well, and shall forget that you have
 'betray'd me, for fear least so cruel an Idea, by
 'kindling my Rage, should weaken my Love.'
 'Ah! my dear *Ismira*, cry'd the Prince, *throwing him-*
 '*self at her Feet*, what must I do to repair my Crime?'
 'Love none but me, Sir, reply'd she, and shew by
 'staying with me here how dear I am to you.'
 'Yes, charming Nymph, said Salmacis, I love none
 'but you, and shall think myself happy to renounce
 'the Bounties the Fairy has promised me, to prove
 'that my Love is as violent as in the first Days of
 'its Birth.'

While the Prince with so much Imprudence for-
 got all the Obligations he had to the Queen, that
 lovely Fairy was sensibly provoked at the Prefe-
 rence he gave a Person so much beneath him in
 Beauty and Birth. In her Rage she could not find
 out any Punishment great enough to expiate so hor-
 rid a Crime: Her first Transports represented the
 Pleasure of Revenge so full of Charms, that she
 was ready to invent an Enchantment by which these
 Criminals might live in Despair. But Love pre-
 vailing over her Passion, she contented herself with
 venting her Anger in Tears. 'Ah! *Celina*, said she,
 'how great an Injury have you done me by flat-
 'tering my Tenderness! Had it not been for you,
 'I had never tasted of the fatal Pleasure of being
 'loved by the Prince; I should have always seen
 'him at the Feet of my Rival, and that cruel Sight
 'would have made me hate him: But poison'd by
 'his false Passion, I was reduced to the sweet Ne-
 'cessity of thinking myself always beloved by him.
 'What Remedies, cruel Maid, can you apply to
 'the Evils you have brought on me?'

'Madam,

Magnificent Fairy and Salmacis. 77

‘ Madam, *said I*, if my Death can make an Atonement, I’ll undergo it with Pleasure : I confess I was in the Wrong to you : As to the perfidious Prince *Salmacis*, he is undeserving of your Bounty, since he is so neglectful ; and you ought to punish him, if he was not so dear to you that his Punishment would be the greater to yourself ; but if he is necessary to your Repose, forget his ill Conduct, and attribute it not to the Inclinations of his Heart : The artful *Ismira*, for fear of your Charms, keeps him from you through a Use of admiring her Beauty. Go and shew yourself, Madam, at her Palace, and force from your Enemy a Slave who is but too much honoured with wearing your Chains, and I’ll answer for his Fidelity.’ ‘ Ah ! *Celina, said the Queen*, tho’ I am sensible I cannot live without being beloved by the Prince, I cannot resolve to take such a Step, which would turn to my Shame, and might perhaps add to my Rival’s Triumph.’ ‘ Well then, Madam, *said I*, publish the Tournament which you always give upon the Account of your Birth-Day, and let the Prize be so great as to flatter the Vanity of the weak Prince, who, fond of Glory and Honour, will leave his Nymph ; and if he sees you but a Moment, I’ll be answerable for his Repentance.’ The Fairy, after having well weigh’d my Advice, resolv’d to follow it, and order’d a Tournament to be appointed, and for the Prize a golden Crown set with Rubies, which the Victor should wear at all publick Ceremonies in that Island.

The Hopes of this Recompence had the Effect I expected. *Salmacis* could not resist the Desire he had of being honour’d by so particular a Distinction, but left *Ismira*, and arriv’d at Court the Night before the Tournament. The Affront he had put upon the Queen prevented him from going to make her a Visit. The next Day the Fairy, magnificently dress’d, plac’d herself on a Scaffold, attende

78 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

by all her Court ; and after the Judges of the Field had perform'd the usual Ceremonies, the Prince was the first who enter'd the Lists. His Armour shined bright with Jewels, his Helmet was adorn'd with a Plume of white Feathers, and on his Shield was figured a *Cupid* endeavouring to pierce three Hearts with one Arrow, but could not accomplish it, and this Device, *'Tis too much for one.* He never in all his Life appear'd so charming as that Day ; for the God of Love, who thought none more worthy of his Care than that Prince and the Fairy, had enliven'd his natural Beauty by their Charms. *Salmacis*, after having taken a Turn or two about the Field, passing by the Queen, saluted her with a Countenance whereon his Shame for his Crime was painted, and surpriz'd at himself for preferring *Ismira* before that adorable Fairy, stood above a Quarter of an Hour before he could take his Eyes off her. But a Knight presenting himself, he soon made himself ready to receive him ; and not only gain'd the Victory over him, but over all who disputed it with him ; and being declared Victor, was led to the Queen's Scaffold, to be crown'd by her own Hands.

When the Tournament was over, the Fairy retired into her Closet, and would not be seen by any Body ; and the Prince, unable to resist his Desire of getting her Pardon, came to me. *'Celina, said he to me, either kill me, or get me Leave to throw myself at the Queen's Feet: I know I am unworthy of her Favour, after what my blind Passion has made me commit ; but if a quick Repentance, and a Fidelity, Proof against all the Tryals she can put me to, can bear any Weight— And yet, Celina, I know so well how by Love to repair my Weakness, that she shall be obliged to renew my Chains.'* *'My Lord, reply'd I, I cannot promise that the Queen will hear you, since she foreseeing that you would come, has lock'd herself up, and forbid any Body to interrupt her.'*
'Celina

Magnificent Fairy *and* Salmacis. 79

' *Celina*, said he, I know that you have that Liberty ;
' grant me the Favour that I ask, or I shall believe
' that you never was my Friend.' At last overcome
by *Salmacis's* Intrcaties, and believing that I should
not displease the Queen, I went and knock'd at the
Closet-Door ; but was surprized when she bid me
be gone, and would not hear a Syllable of the
Prince's Repentance. With this cruel Answer I
went to him, and thought he would have died
away at the News ; and so great was his Grief, that
he retired to his own Apartment without saying
one Word. It was several Days before he could
get a favourable Opportunity to speak to her ; for
she had forbid him her Sight : Till one Evening, as
she was walking by the Sea-side, attended by her
Maids, he came and cast himself at her Feet, and
knew so perfectly well how to talk by his Eyes and
Sighs, that the Fairy promised to forget his Crime,
provided he would forsake *Ismira* ; which the Prince
consented to without any Hesitation, and from that
Moment gave her all the Tokens of a constant Pas-
sion. *Ismira* made use of all her Charms to seduce
him again ; but finding the Attempts fruitless, to
banish him from her Heart, left the Island, and
married a Prince who had loved her a long Time.

In the mean Time the Fame of *Salmacis's* Happi-
ness reach'd the Ears of King *Poliander*, who, taking
it ill that a Subject should dare to make Love to
his Sovereign, sent for *Amerdin*, that famous Magi-
cian, and order'd him to take away and confine
Salmacis in his enchanted Castle ; and that cruel In-
strument of Mischief having surpriz'd *Salmacis* when
he was out a hunting, convey'd him to that fatal
Abode. The Queen in Despair for his Misfortune,
consulted her Books, to know how her Lover
might gain his Liberty, and found that it was you
alone, Generous Prince, (said *Celina*, addressing her
self to *Elmedorus*,) who could destroy the Inchant-
ment of that Castle, where so many illustrious un-
fortunate Princes and Princesses suffer Punishment

80 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

unknown to other Mortals. The Queen saw with Sorrow that you had lost the Ring on which the Success of this Adventure depended; when *Zamat* dying, committed that Treasure so precious to her Tenderness into her Hands, charging her to restore it to you for the Advancement of her Happiness. She conducted you to the River *Tagus*, where the beautiful Princess of *Fez*, by her Orders, waited for you: And knowing that you was going to attempt so dangerous an Enterprize without any other Assistance than your own Courage, sent me this Morning to you, that she might herself give you that valuable Ring, on which the Change of hers and your Fortune depends, since thereby you will find your charming Princess again always constant to your Memory. *Asmonadus* knowing of your Return from the Fairy *Desideria's* Island, and fearing you should go and take *Alzayda* from him, took her away in that Swoon wherein your Squire thought she was dead, and left *Leon*, taking *Sanchea* along with him. He hurried her to *Amerdin's* Inchaned Castle, where *Desideria*, to be revenged of you, told him he might make himself belov'd by that charming Lady: But has since found that his Inchantments could have no Effect upon her Heart; for she, always faithful to her dear Prince of *Granada*, passes her Days full of Grief. For you, beautiful *Zamea*, your Knight, deceiv'd by your Resemblance, tastes all the sweet Pleasures which makes him bless his Fate; and *Amandina*, to satisfy the Hatred of the revengeful *Celdina*, sometimes regrets the Loss of the Prince of *Mauritania* in a Deluge of Tears, and sometimes bewails the Death of the Prince of *Arragon*. For *Salmacis*, his Punishment is great enough in being separated from his adorable Fairy: But as he believes he shall never see her again, he is as much to be pitted as the rest, who are kept in that terrible Abode.

Celina

Celina having thus finished her Relation, made the Prince of *Granada* so desirous of arriving at *Amerdin's* Castle, that they had a great deal to do to perswade him to stay in the Magnificent Fairy's Island till the next Day; and the Joy to know that his Princess was living so employ'd his Thoughts, that he forgot to thank *Celina* for the Favour she had done him, which *Zalmayda* and *Zamea* did for him, and after went to the Queen in her own Apartment. That Night was spent in begging of the Fairy to assist them with her Advice; and the next Day, by Sun-rise, this lovely Troop left that Isle, and were carried back by the same Galley that brought them, and found by the River-Side a magnificent Chariot for the Princesses, and for the Prince's Fairy Horses, which could neither tire nor be wounded. A Dwarf presented *Elmedorus* with a Suit of Armour of massy Gold, enrich'd with Rubies and Pearls; and on his Shield, which was of the same Metal, was the Representation of himself trampling expiring Monsters under his Feet. *Elmedorus* accepted of so valuable a Present, and was armed with them by the Dwarf, who inform'd him of their Power. Afterwards they pursued their Way for *Amerdin's* Castle.

All that Day they travell'd without any Molestation from any Person, and at Night arrived at a little Hamlet, situate by a pleasant River's Side, where the Huts were built of red Marble, and the Shepherds and Shepherdesses cloath'd in Stuffs of the same Colour, with Silver Crooks in their Hands; came to offer them their Habitations for that Night. The Princesses surpriz'd to find so much Politeness among Shepherds, asked them whom they belonged to. The Shepherds answer'd, they were Subjects of the Magnificent Fairy, who had ordered them to receive them after the best Manner they were capable of. These Huts they found to be as convenient within, as they were handsomely built without. All the Furniture w

82 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

of a Rose-colour'd and Silver Stuff; and Tables of red and green Porphyry, cover'd with Vessels of Alabaster full of several Sorts of Flowers, from which there exhaled a Perfume that ravished the Senses.

The Princesses, after they had admired that charming Place, laid themselves down for some Time on Beds of Repose, and during a Repast, which was served up, the Shepherds play'd on soft Flutes; and when the Supper was over, they all retir'd to their Apartments. The next Morning by Day-break our fair Adventurers, follow'd by the Knights, got into their Chariot; and after caressing their kind Hostesses, pursued their Journey. The next Evening they spent as agreeably as that in the Marble Hamlet; for in a great Forest, the Track which they follow'd led them to a fine Castle, the Walls of which were white Agate, and the Cornishes and Covering of Flame-colour'd China. A Nymph of heavenly Beauty, cover'd with a Veil of Green and Gold Gause, stood at the Gates; and addressing herself to the Prince of *Granada*, said, 'Generous Prince, the Magnificent Fairy orders me to receive you here; and you may assure your Princesses, that they may command every Thing this Place affords.' *Elmedorus* receiv'd this Compliment with great Civility, and presented the Princesses, who embraced their beautiful Hostess; who led them into a Hall of Agate, the same as the Palace-Walls, supported by twelve Flame-colour'd China Pillars, where all the Furniture was green Velvet embroider'd with Gold. As soon as they were sat down, six Nymphs came and presented Baskets full of Fruit and Sweet-Meats. After this Collation they walk'd into a Wood of Pomegranate-Trees, of an extraordinary Height, where there were fine Fountains which fell into large China Basins of that Nymph's favourite Colour. *Zalmayda* and *Zamea* were so enchanted with this charming Abode, that they could hardly resolve to leave it, but that the Nymph

Nymph led them insensibly into the Forest, where a noble Entertainment and Concert of fine Musick was prepared for them. All which, as soon as the Princesses and Princesses rose from Table, disappear'd; and from all the Alleys, which ended in that Place, came forth *Moors*, and gave them a Morris-Dance. Great Part of the Evening glided away in these Sorts of Diversions, till the Princesses reflecting that they were to rise early the next Day, return'd to the Palace: Tho' the next Morning, more idle than ordinary, they lay till two Hours after Sunrise; when their charming Hostels led them to their Chariot, and taking her Leave of them, gave *Elmedorus* a Dog of an extraordinary Size, and bid him follow that Dog, which would lead him to the fatal Castle. *Elmedorus*, as well as the rest of these Adventurers, thank'd her a thousand Times, and follow'd the Dog, who took a large Tract in the Forest.

They had not travell'd more than three Hours, before they discern'd *Amerdin's* Castle, at which the Prince conceiv'd an inexpressible Joy, and making the Princesses stop, desir'd the Princes to stay with them to guard them, and advanced by himself to the Gates of that infernal Place; from whence, after the usual Signal, there came forth a Knight with his Lance in his Hand, whom he knew to be *Almanzon*. *Elmedorus* would not make use of his Sword against him, but presenting his Ring, the Knight coming out of the Enchantment with which he had been so long deceiv'd, let fall his Lance, and threw himself at the Feet of the Prince of *Granada*; who raising him up, and embracing him, said, 'Accept from me Brave Knight, both Liberty and your Princess,' pointing to the Princesses Chariot. *Almanzon* transported with Joy, ran to his dear Princess; and in the mean Time a second Enemy came out o the Castle, whom the Prince knew to be *Salmaiz*. by his Device. The Respect he had for the Fairy prevented his employing his Sword, &

84 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

let fall the Point, and shew'd his fatal Ring. The Knight asham'd of his Design, ran to his Deliverer with open Arms. ' Prince, *said Elmedorus*, the ' Magnificent Fairy, by whom you have always ' been tenderly beloved, frees you from these Chains ' to oblige you to wear hers.' ' Ah! Generous ' Knight, *reply'd Salmacis*, what Happiness do you ' pronounce! Is it possible for me to see that Charm- ' ing Fairy again?' ' Yes, *said Elmedorus*, and find ' her always beautiful and constant. But leave me ' to finish my Undertaking; for the dear Interest I ' have in it urges me to make a Trial of all the Ene- ' mies the cruel *Amerdin* can send against me. Go to ' the Princesses, who wait for me; but have a care ' of their Charms.' The Knight; obey'd and *Elme- dorus* seeing a third Adversary, who was *Asmonadus*, advanced towards him with his Sword in his Hand. ' Who art thou, rash Youth, *said Asmonadus*, who ' come here to seek thy Death?' ' I am *Elmedorus* ' of *Granada*, *reply'd the Prince*, who, favour'd by the ' Gods, come to punish thee and the Traitor *Amer- din*, and to deliver the Princess *Alzayda* out of ' the Hands of her Enemies.' At these Words they fought with so great Fury, that the Princesses trem- bled for their valiant Hero, and the Princes, for- getting that they were not to concern themselves in this Adventure, ran to his Assistance; but before they could get to him, he had brought his Assai- lant to the Ground, whose Soul flew to the infernal Regions thro' a large Wound in his Side. *Elmedorus* being thus deliver'd of his Rival, thank'd the gene- rous Knights, and desired them to return again to the Princesses.

As soon as *Asmonadus* had yielded up his Breath, there came out of the Castle a roaring Lion to at- tack the Prince, who, without making use of his Ring, kill'd him, after an Hour's Fight, by *Asmo- nadus*. The Lion was no sooner defeated, but there appear'd a Knight mounted on a Griffin, with his Visor half-lifted up, and his haggard Eyes full of Fury.

Fury. 'Think not, Prince of *Granada*, said he, because thou hast vanquish'd so often, to accomplish thy Enterprize. Thou canst not escape my Revenge.' 'Let us see then, said *Elmedorus*, if thou art more invulnerable than the rest of thy Defenders, by whom thou thought'st to weaken my Arm; but know, that my Strength increases with my Victories.' Then *Amerdin* flew with his Griffin towards *Elmedorus*, who found himself in great Difficulty thereby; but growing outrageous that this Traytor should defend himself so well, fetch'd so furious a Stroke at his Sword-Arm, that he cut it off; and the Magician finding that he was no longer able to resist, flew away on his Griffin. From his venomous Blood there sprung up so many Snakes and Serpents, which turn'd their murdering Tongues against the Prince, that he seeing that he could not defend himself against so many Enemies, turn'd his Ring, and passing thro' the Midst of them, went directly to the Castle.

Two Bears of an enormous Size guarded the Porch, and would infallibly have fallen upon him, but being restrain'd by the Virtue of his Ring, ran away. The Gates open'd, and a Knight of a haughty Mein advanc'd to defend the Entry. *Elmedorus*, sorry to sacrifice so accomplish'd a Prince, desir'd him not to put himself to the Proof of his Arms: But the Stranger, whom the Magician had told that he was come to force away *Amandina*, not listening to the good Advice he gave, struck him on the Helmet with his Sword. Upon which the enraged *Elmedorus*, disdain'g to use his Ring, attack'd him; and though there was no Knight more brave than the unhappy Prince of *Arragon*, laid him lifeless at his Feet: After this, our generous Prince, impatient to find his Princess, went in; and having traversed several dismal Apartments, came to a Tower, where there was neither Door nor Window, and heard the Complaints of those who were inclosed in it; and among the rest, thought he could distinguish his Princess's Voice.

86 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

Voice. Moved with these plaintive Sounds, he took a Hammer, which the Magnificent Fairy had order'd him to carry with him, and fastening his magick Ring to it, struck the Wall therewith, which presently open'd, and he went in, and found it full of beautiful Ladies, who by their Tears formed a Brook which ran out at the Bottom of that Piece of Building. There he found his dear *Alzayda* sat by a Tomb, which she besprinkled with her Tears, and saw himself so well represented, that he was amazed : But desirous to put a Step to the Princess's Sighs and Torments, presented the Ring ; upon which the Tomb immediately disappear'd, and the Walls of the Tower were changed into a magnificent Triumphal Arch, where the Names of *Elmedorus* and *Alzayda* were writ in golden Letters, supported by *Cupids*. All the Knights and Ladies, who had been kept Prisoners there for almost an Age by the Enchantments of the cruel *Amerdin*, came to throw themselves at the Feet of the Prince of *Granada*, who raised them up after so noble and genteel a Manner, that they conceiv'd a new Joy to be deliver'd by so generous a Knight ; and perceiving the Impatience he was in to entertain his Princess, retir'd to the other End of the Room they were in ; and the Prince, willing to make use the Advantage of this their Complaisance, said to *Alzayda*, ' Alas ! my dear Princess, what real Grief has your false Death caused me ! The Gods undoubtedly allow'd of that Command you gave me, to preserve my Life to revenge you ; for had not my blind Obedience to your Orders restrain'd me, I should have long ago sacrific'd it to my Despair.' Prince, reply'd *Alzayda*, with an Air of Pleasure in her Countenance, you see by the Punishment the cruel *Asmonadus* inflicted, how dear you was to me, since I for my Disdain of him was condemn'd to bewail your Death all my Days. But what favourable Deity conducted you into this Castle, and has preserved you from the wicked *Amerdin* and your Ri-

' val ?'

‘ val?’ ‘ My Rival, *reply’d the Prince*, hath with his
 ‘ Life paid for the Injuries he has done us; and the
 ‘ other perfidious Magician, unable to defend
 ‘ himself against me, fled on his winged Griffin.
 He was going to give her a full Relation of his Ad-
 ventures, but *Alzayda* representing to him that the
 Presence of so many illustrious Persons would not
 permit them to hold a longer Conversation said,
 ‘ Let us leave this fatal Place, and be assured that
 ‘ *Alzayda* is the same as when you left her at *Leon*.’
 After this favourable Assurance, the Princess went
 to the other Princesses, who were still praising the
 Prince’s Generosity. *Alzayda* mixing in their Dis-
 course, said, she must own that they were all very
 much obliged to him, and would be much more
 if he would lead them out of that frightful Prison.
Elmedorus reply’d, he would as soon as she pleas’d :
 But first desir’d to know which of all those amiable
 Persons was *Amandina*. The Princess of *Castile* no
 sooner heard her Name pronounced, but she ad-
 vanced; and the Prince told her, he desired only
 her Pardon for the Death of *Armandus*, which it
 was not in his Power to prevent. The Princess
 blush’d, and sigh’d at this melancholy News; when
Elmedorus, to ease her troubled Soul, said, ‘ But
 ‘ since, Madam, I have been so unhappy as to de-
 ‘ prive you of one deserving Lover, to repair my
 ‘ Fault, I will restore *Zalmandor* to you.’ ‘ Ah!
 ‘ Sir, *said Amandina*, do not flatter me with false
 ‘ Hopes, to comfort me for a certain Misfortune.’
 ‘ You shall know in a little Time, *reply’d the Prince*,
 ‘ that I promise nothing but what I can perform.’
 In saying these Words, he presented his Hand to the
 adorable *Alzayda*, who was follow’d by the other
 Ladies, who were led by all the Knights then pre-
 sent.

As they pass’d thro’ the Porch, the Princess of *Castile*
 perceiv’d the Body of the unfortunate Prince of
Aragon, which Sight drew Tears from her Eyes;
 and *Armandus*’s Squire, casting himself at *Elmedorus*’s
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88 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

Feet, said, 'Give me leave, Sir, to perform the last Duties to my illustrious Master, and to erect a Tomb in the same Place where he lost his Life.' 'I conjure you, generous Prince, said the Princess of Castile, not to refuse the faithful *Cleon* the Favour he asks of you.' 'Alas! Madam, cry'd the Squire, it is some sort of Recompence for my unhappy Master, that you obtain a Grave for him who employ'd the last Moment of his Life to shew his Love: For after he was cured of his Wounds, he left his own Dominions. and being inform'd that you was brought to this Castle, came to find you out; where he was receiv'd by the cruel *Amerdin*, who promised him, if he could defend this fatal Place against the valiant Prince of *Granada*, to deliver you up to him, that he might carry you back to *Castile*. My Prince accepted of the Conditions, and this Day put an End to his miserable Life.' *Cleon*, said *Amandina*, the Gods can witness how sensible I am of the Misfortunes of your illustrious Master; and that I would, if it lay in my Power, restore him to Life again at the Price of my Crown: But since that is impossible, let us pay to his Shade those Offices which it expects from us. Prepare a funeral Pile, and let him have a Tomb worthy of so perfect a Knight.' *Elmedorus* desired *Cleon* to undertake that Work, and promised to supply him with all Necessaries. And after that, impatient to return to the lovely Troop that waited for him, left the Castle, follow'd by a numerous Attendance.

They were no sooner got over the Bridge of the Moat which surrounded the Castle, but the Heavens appear'd all on Fire, follow'd by Lightning and terrible Claps of Thunder; which made this illustrious Company look back to the Castle, where they saw infinite Numbers of Demons, which having destroy'd that dismal Place, took their Flight through the Air and with this Storm the Enchantment ended. The Princesses shuddering and trembling

bling with Fear, knew not what to think, till Day appearing brighter than before, calm'd their Fears, and presented to their View a most charming Sight. That Castle, which was more horrible than the most dismal Representation of Hell, was changed into so magnificent a Palace, that no Eyes could bear the Lustre of the Jewels wherewith it was adorn'd; and on the Front might be read, in a Cartridge of one single Carbuncle, these Words :

This stately Edifice was erected to immortalize the Memory of the Valiant Elmedorus, the Honour and Glory of Knighthood, and the true Pattern of faithful Love.

A beautiful Lady stood at the Gates, who, approaching *Alzayda*, said, ' Madam, the Magnificent Fairy, to leave to Posterity the Remembrance of the Valour of your illustrious Lover, hath raised this Palace from the Ruins of that which was destroy'd by his heroick Courage. Honour it with your Presence; and in a Temple dedicated to the Goddess of Constancy, consecrate that mysterious Ring which has effected your Liberty : You have no more Occasion for its magical Aid, since nothing can disturb your Happiness, and your Days will roll away in Love and Pleasure. For you, Prince, said she to Elmedorus, know that nothing can equal your Glory; Possessor of a large Empire, and one of the most virtuous and beautiful Princesses in the World, you will surpass the greatest Heroes; and to compleat your Wishes, there shall spring from your Loins a Son who shall make himself known to the most distant Poles.' *Elmedorus* and *Alzayda* were so surpriz'd at the Happiness that this learned Fairy pronounced, that they could not make any Reply; when the Princesses *Zalmayda* and *Zamea*, and all the Knights who accompanied them, having seen the End of the Enchantment, came to testify their Joy. The Prince of Granada taking *Zalmandor* by the Hand, while the Princess

90 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

were embracing *Alzayda*, and presenting him to the beautiful *Amandina*, said; 'You see, Madam, I perform my Promises.' The Princess, without returning any Answer, held out her Hand to her Lover, and receiv'd with an extraordinary Satisfaction all the Testimonies he gave her of his Love. And after the first Transports of all these admirable Persons, the obliging Fairy engaged them to go into this new Palace, which was extremely beautiful. Nothing else was hardly seen but Gold, and Silver, and Jewels; and in the Midst of the Court was erected a Trophy to the Honour of the Prince of *Granada*. After they had admired this new Edifice, the Fairy led them into a Temple of Turquoise, where the Goddess *Constantia* stood on an Altar of the same Stone, the Basis of which was all massy Gold. *Alzayda* taking the Ring from the Prince, laid it at the Feet of the Goddess; and after having beseech'd her always to reign in the Heart of *Elmendorus*, was going away; when the Fairy, taking her by the Hand, said, 'Come, Madam, let us go and appease the Ghost of the Prince of *Arragon* by some Tears of the Princess of *Castile's*, of which I am sure *Zalmandor* will not be jealous. The Prince of *Granada* is willing that he should have a Tomb here; and the Magnificent Fairy, to shew her Acknowledgment to him, hath erected a Monument near this Temple.' As the Fairy said these Words, she walked to a Pyramid of black and white Marble, where all the Actions that the unhappy *Armandus* had perform'd on the Account of his Love, were represented below in Relievo; and on the Top of the Pyramid stood the Figure of that Prince, in the same Armour wherein he fought, which were so well painted, that no one could distinguish them at that Distance. On his Shield was represented the cruel Goddess, the Destroyer of all Things, holding an Heart, out of which issued Flames, and this Device, *In spight of Death.*

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Amandina could not behold so melancholy a Sight; but sigh'd, and let fall several Tears; and *Zalmando* himself bore her Company in this her State of Sorrow, till the Fairy, whose sole Aim was to afford all these illustrious Persons infinite Pleasures, obliged them to leave that Tomb, and go into most stately Apartments; where she left all these happy Lovers, to give them an Opportunity of entertaining their charming Princesses. *Salmacis* alone was uneasy; for the Happiness he saw those Princes enjoy, made him impatient to taste the same Pleasures, when the Sound of Trumpets and Hautboys awaken'd him out of this his Melancholy. He ran to the Window, to see who was coming: But how great was his Joy, to see his charming Fairy in a Chariot, drawn by Unicorns more white than the Horses of the Sun, and follow'd by all her Nymphs in others! He went and threw himself at her Feet before she alighted, and by Transports, which nought but Love could inspire, expressed the most tender Passion. She raised him up with all the Bounty imaginable; and her Eyes appear'd so languishing, that he thought he should have died away with Pleasure. By this Time the Princes and Princesses follow'd, who, overjoy'd to see the Queen, believ'd that nothing more could disturb their Happiness. The Magnificent Fairy embraced all these amiable Heroines, and turning towards the Prince of *Granada*, said, 'It is just, Generous *Elmedorus*, that I thank you for the Care you have taken of *Salmacis*, and your restoring him faithful to me: But to recompence you, I will compleat your Happiness in this Palace consecrated to your Victory. In a short Time we shall hear from the King your Father; and for the other Princes, whose Consent is necessary to finish all these Adventures, I have taken care to inform them. In the mean Time, taste the Pleasure of knowing how well you are beloved by your beautiful Princess. For you, Charming Fairy of Pleasures, said she.

92 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

' *her who appeared at the Gates of the new Palace, neglected nothing to make us pass away our Days happily, while we wait for that of the Celebration of so many illustrious Weddings.*'

After these Words, the Queen gave her Hand to the Prince of *Granada*, and led him into a Hall, where the Walls were lin'd in the Manner of Wainscot with white Agate, vein'd with Green and Flame Colour. All the Furniture was of Cloth of Gold, embroider'd with Pearls, Rubies, and Emeralds; and under a Canopy, supported by four *Cupids* of Turquoise, there lay a Crown of Hearts interwoven together. A Throne of the same Agate as the Walls was erected six Steps from thence, and cover'd with a rich Piece of Tapestry, where the Queen placed herself, with all the Princesses, sat on each Hand of her, on very fine Cushions. Nothing was ever so charming as this Sight, nor never were there so many Beauties assembled together in one Place. *Alzayda* shone so bright and lovely, that, after the Magnificent Fairy, she bore away the Bell, and none of the other Ladies so much as disputed it with her; tho' they had so little Reason to complain of Nature's Favours, that it was necessary every one should see *Alzayda*, to believe that there was something more perfect than themselves. A great Part of the Day was already spent in such great Events, when the Magnificent Fairy, fearing lest the Praises that were bestow'd on the Princess of *Leon* might somewhat chagrin the other Princesses, told the Fairy of Pleasures, that they ought not to be any longer ignorant of the Adventure that had changed their happy Days to so long Sorrow, and desired her to inform that illustrious Company. The charming Fairy obey'd, and began in these Words:

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*The History of the Fairy of Pleasures
and the Cruel Amerdin.*

YOU know, Madam, said the Fairy, addressing herself to the Queen, that I am the Daughter of a powerful Fairy, who kept her Court in an Island hard by yours, which was call'd the *Happy Isle*. My Mother walking one Evening by the Seaside, saw *Venus* rise out of the Water, follow'd by the God of Pleasures; who perceiving her, left the Goddess to declare to her the Love with which she had inspired him. The Fairy was not long insensible to his Passion; and their Union brought me forth. My Mother, charm'd to see me resemble the God my Father so perfectly, endued me with all the Gifts that lay in her Power; and consulting her Books on my Fate, found that I was threaten'd by a great Misfortune, if I should be loved by a Prince that was a Magician. To avoid this Presage, she built a Palace in this fatal Place, furnished it with every Thing that might delight me, appointed the most agreeable Persons of both Sexes for my Companions; and the God my Father, to shew how dear I was to him, shut up with me the *Pleasures*, which were young Children of an heavenly Beauty, who by their Presence inspire the most sorrowful with Joy. He permitted them every Day to go out of the Palace, to shew themselves to Mortals; but commanded them always to return at Night to my delicious Prison, which makes Mankind so much depriv'd of their amiable Presence.

The Approach to this Palace was very difficult by reason of the many Monsters that defended it, and a thick Cloud which render'd it invisible. I spent my Days very happily in this charming Retreat.
Ever

94 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

Every Thing favour'd my Desires; for Love had taken care to provide a Prince for me about five Years older than my self; who by a tender and constant Passion, made me discover new Pleasures in the most ordinary Diversions. His Name was *Constantius*; and never Lover better deserved that Name. But of what Use were all these prudent Precautions against the cruel Order of Fate?

One Day, as I was walking on a Terrace before the Palace, I perceived a Man mounted on a Griffin that cut the Air with his Wings. This Novelty made me shriek out; upon which he stopp'd, and lighting gently on the Ground, look'd at me some Time, and took his Flight again thro' the Air, and soon disappear'd. Frighten'd with this Adventure, I return'd to my Apartment; and being again the next Day in the Gardens, the same Stranger came and accosted me. I never in all my Life beheld a Man so disagreeable, and so capable of inspiring Hatred and Horror. 'Fair Princess, said he, be not amaz'd to see me again; for who can behold you but a Moment, and not wish to live all his Life nigh you. I willingly relinquish the Power I have to make the Earth tremble, to persuade you that nothing can equal my Love: You cannot make a more glorious Conquest. I am as powerful as the Gods themselves, and the Heavens and Earth obey my Voice.' I reply'd, 'Sir, my Ambition will never make me envy the Happiness of pleasing you. I am content with reigning in this Palace, and in the Heart of Prince *Constantius*; and desire no more. Bestow your Heart on some fair Lady who will know how to value it, and let me enjoy that Peace and Tranquillity, which nothing but your Presence can disturb.' After these Words, I would have left him, to go to meet *Constantius*, whom I perceived at the End of the Alley: But he holding me by the Gown, said, 'You cannot, Princess, have a greater Happiness than in answering my Passion: I cannot bear that you should

Fairy of Pleasures *and* Amerdin. 95

' should prefer a young *Adonis* before me. If you
 ' are wise, you will accept of the Offer I make you
 ' of my Heart, or be afraid lest I should punish you
 ' for having made me sensible of a Tenderness so
 ' contrary to my Nature. I have told you I can do
 ' what I please, therefore have a care lest you force
 ' me to hate as much as now I love. To-morrow
 ' I'll come to know your Resolution, which will
 ' determine both our Fates.' As he spoke these
 Words, he mounted his Griffin again; and after he
 was got out of Sight, I went to *Constantius*, to tell
 him this new Misfortune. We spent all that Night
 in bewailing our hard Fortune, and the next Morn-
 ing the cruel *Amerdin* appear'd in my Chamber.
 ' Well, Princess, said he, with a Countenance wherein
 ' Rage and Love were painted, have you reflected on
 ' the Honour I have offer'd you? Are you disposed
 ' to accept of an Heart, which never sigh'd for any
 ' but yourself.' ' Sir, said I, we cannot dispose of
 ' our Affections as we please. I must confess you
 ' are deserving of the greatest Princesses in the
 ' World; but Love has not reserved that happy
 ' Fate for me: I am entirely devoted to Prince
 ' *Constantius*, whom I have loved almost from my
 ' Cradle. Do not therefore force in upon those
 ' sweet Chains, since I knew you not when I re-
 ' ceiv'd his Vows; why then would you endeavour
 ' to break so pleasing a Bond.' ' I shall have a care
 ' how I break that Bond, reply'd the perfidious *Amer-*
 ' *din*, since I intend to make that your greatest
 ' Torment. 'Tis done: My Heart, so little used to
 ' Tenderness, yields to its natural Hatred. Tremble,
 ' unhappy Princess, tremble, for the Sighs you have
 ' caused me, and which prepare the most horrible
 ' Misfortunes for you, which are much the greater,
 ' that they affect not your Life.' At the same
 Time he struck this Palace with a Rod which he
 had in his Hand, and changed it into a frightful
 Prison. Prince *Constantius*, who would have de-
 fended me, he put in a Tower that had neither

96 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

an Entry, nor going out, and chased away the Pleasures. And my Passion for the Prince increasing every Day, I spent my Time in walking round that Tower, to find an Entrance.

From that Time the wicked *Amerdin* became an Enemy to all happy Lovers, strove to disturb their Pleasures, and fill'd that Tower with all he could get in his Power, inventing new Torments to increase their Tears, which were receiv'd in a Basin of black Marble, and form'd a Brook, by which briny Water he perform'd all his Inchantments.

One Day, having consulted his Books, he found that a Prince beloved by Heaven would come and destroy his Power. Enraged at this Order of Fate, he sought to invite into his Castle all Knights that were the most renowned for their Valour. To this End he placed in Forests and great Roads Demons in the Shapes of beautiful Ladies, who ask'd their Assistance against him. 'Twas by one of these Phantoms that Prince *Almanzon* was decoy'd; and under the deceitful Promise of having the beautiful *Amandina* restored to him, the unfortunate Prince of *Arragon* lost his Life. At last the Prince of *Granada*, Madam, under your glorious Auspices, came and broke our Chains, and restored me my dear Prince, as faithful as before our Misfortunes. At the same Time I received your Orders to erect this new Palace, to the Glory of our invincible Protector. I made use of all the Power my Mother gave me, and now Prince *Constantius* is gone to bring back to this happy Abode those *Pleasures* that the cruel Magician had forced away.

The Fairy had no sooner made an End of her Story, but Prince *Constantius* enter'd the Room with these beautiful Children, so necessary to the Happiness of Life. They came and prostrated themselves at the Feet of the Queen, and told her they would accompany her ever after. The Magnificent Fairy receiv'd their Homage with an Air of Joy, which
nothing.

nothing but their Presence could create : And the Night being very far advanced, after a light Repast, which was nevertheless magnificent, the Queen retired to her Apartment, as did also all our Princesses, after they had bid their Lovers good Night.

All the Days following were spent in gallant Feasts ; and the Ambassadors of *Granada*, *Tunis*, *Fez*, and *Mauritania* being arriv'd, the Magnificent Fairy, to unite all these heroick Lovers in one everlasting Band, made the Fairy of Pleasures consent to the Happiness of Prince *Constantius*, and order'd the *Pleasures* to prepare the Feast. *Salmacis* would willingly have made one among these fortunate Lovers : But the Queen told him, that she was too much afraid that his natural Inconstancy would not let him as yet relish Matrimony, therefore she had a mind to continue him some Years longer as a Lover. But this hard Law was attended with so many flattering Promises of loving him for ever, that he thought himself too happy to expiate his Fickleness by pleasing Hopes.

That Day, so much desired by our Princes, and perhaps by our Princesses too, being arrived, *Alzayda* led by *Elmedorus*, the Fairy of Pleasures by Prince *Constantius*, *Zalmayda* by *Alinzor*, *Amandina* by *Zalmandor*, and *Zamea* by *Almanzon*, went into the Temple of the Goddess of Constancy, where the Magnificent Fairy, brighter than *Aurora*, waited for them with *Salmacis*. A charming Consort of Musick began the Ceremony ; and when that was over, attended them back again to the Palace, where a sumptuous Feast was prepared for them. After Dinner the *Pleasures* represented the Destruction of the Enchantment of the cruel *Amerdin* on a Theatre erected in the Hall. In the Evening there was a Ball, where the Queen would make the Princesses of *Leon* preside ; and when that was done, she led these happy Lovers to their Apartments, where

98 The Tales of the FAIRIES.

they received a Recompence worthy of all their Sufferings.

Salmacis was not in the least satisfied with this happy Night, but waited with Impatience for the Morn, to reproach the Magnificent Fairy: But that lovely Majesty that appeared always in her Countenance prevented his Complaints, and he was satisfied to shew by his Sighs that he deserved a more perfect Bliss. However, the Fairy took care to comfort him by the most tender and passionate Looks, and assured him that she never would be any other's but his.

After these happy Days, the Queen, willing to return to her own Island, left with her illustrious Court the Palace of Pleasures, and by Night arrived at the Hamlet, where she spent the Evening very agreeably, and the next Day arrived at her own Island. There she told *Elmedorus*, and all the Princesses, that the Fairy *Desideria*, out of Despair at the Prince of *Granada's* Happiness, had destroy'd her Enchanted Palace, and was retired to a Desert near to *Granada*, that she might sometimes see that Prince, whom she could not forget, tho' she tried if the Fountain of Forgetfulness would work the same Effect on her as on those she obliged to drink of it.

The Magnificent Fairy, after this News, and loading the Princes and Princesses with Presents, gave them convenient and magnificent Equipages to carry them to their own Dominions. And it was not without Tears that this Royal Troop parted with that adorable Queen, who promised to honour them always with her Protection. All these Heroines parted some Days Journey from the Magnificent Island. The Princesses embraced each other, and swore an everlasting Friendship; the Princes promised to enter into an Alliance against all Kings who should be their Enemies. *Elmedorus* was the first who got into his Dominions.

Dominions ; where the King and Queen of *Granada* overjoy'd to see a Son again who had cost them so many Tears, almost tired him and his charming Spouse with their Caresses. *Elmedorus* discovered new Virtues in her every Day, and tasted a thousand Pleasures, and in due Time heard that those Princes who were the Companions of his Fortune were in peaceable Possession of their Crowns and charming Princesses ; that the Queen of *Fez* had crown'd *Almanzon* and *Zamea*, the King being dead ; that the Prince of *Numidia* was resolv'd to stay in the *Canaries*, lest the Inconstancy of his own Country might give him an ill Example ; that *Zalmandor*, to be nearer *Granada*, was in *Castile* ; and that the Fairy of Pleasures was in the Isle of *Happiness*. All this Joy was still augmented by a Son, which the beautiful *Alzayda* was deliver'd of a Year after their Marriage, who proved to be a Prince as famous for his great Deeds, as the Fairy of Pleasures foretold.





FLORINA:

O R,

The Fair Italian, &c.

IN the first Ages of the World there was a Prince in *Italy*, who was the Delight of his Subjects. They enjoy'd under his Government a perfect Tranquillity; and his Neighbours, kept in Awe by his Courage and Conduct, durst not disturb that sweet Repose. This Prince travell'd frequently thro' all the Provinces of his Dominions, to see that Justice was equally distributed: The Queen his Spouse, who always bore him company, arriving at a Castell on the Borders of his Kingdom, was happily deliver'd of a Princess, who was call'd *Florina*, and who from the Moment of her Birth gave evident Proofs that she would be a perfect Beauty. They had scarcely began to taste the Pleasures of that Child, when the King was inform'd that an ambitious Prince, willing to take the Advantage of his Absence, had made an Irruption into his Dominions, which oblig'd him to go aw with his Court, and all the Troops that were w him. Before his Departure, he sent for a Magi an to render the Castell inaccessible against Surprizes and Insults, for the Preservation of Princess who was to be left there.

The Magician, obeying the King's Commands, perform'd the most solemn Conjurations his Art could devise; writ Characters, invok'd the Powers of the Air, and offer'd Sacrifices to them; made a Circle with his Wand round the Castle, putting it under the Care and Protection of the *Genii*. There he buried Pieces of Metal and precious Stones, whereon *Talismans* were engraved; and after this Ceremony, tho' the Castle was open, it was impossible to go in or out, without the Consent of those Persons whom the King entrusted with the Government of it. It was situated in the pleasantest Part of *Italy*, was built of Marble and Porphyry, and was look'd on as a curious Piece of Antiquity. The Apartments and Gardens were answerable, and were augmented very much by the Art of the Sorcerer.

Florina was left in this Castle under the Care and Conduct of a Governant, fit to educate and be an Example to her, with a great many other Ladies to attend her, who, every one in particular, excell'd in all the Arts requisite to make her an accomplish'd Princess. They found in *Florina*, as she grew up, a Disposition that answer'd all their Care: *Florina* gave them every Day surprizing Tokens; nothing came up to the Sprightliness of her Wit and Repartees.

At seventeen Years of Age, the Fame of her Perfections being spread abroad, *Mauritiana*, one of the Princesses of the Fairies, had the Curiosity to see whether what was said of her was true, which made her quit her Court, disguise her self, and go to the Castle where *Florina* was kept; and who, as soon as she arriv'd there, obtain'd Leave to go in and see the Princess. *Mauritiana* was surpriz'd at the Sight of the Princess, who appear'd more charming than she was reported to be, and was forc'd to confess, that, tho' an old Fairy, she never beheld any Thing so delicate as that Princess.

Mauritiana was not one of those Fairies who protect Virtue, but one of those who are ambitious.

revenge

102 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

revengeful, and who do what they can to accomplish their wicked Ends. By these Means she was raised to the Station of a Princess and Queen of the Fairies, by an unlucky Accident that befel their true Queen *Felician*. The Sight of *Florina* kindled in the Heart of *Mauritiana* a great Jealousy, which made her form a Design of carrying her away, on purpose to destroy her: But knowing that it was in vain to attempt it while she remain'd within the Boundaries of the Castle, she endeavour'd to gain the Governant, and to introduce herself near the Princess, pretending that it would be necessary to learn her to work Embroidery, such as she shew'd her, which was exquisitely fine.

The wise Governant, not willing to have a Person whom she knew not, so nigh the Princess, refused *Mauritiana*, who was forced to retire, and find out other Ways to succeed in her Design. She believed, that to excite the Compassion and Bounty the Princess had naturally for unfortunate Persons, might produce the Effect she propos'd. And one Day, as she was walking on a Terrace within the enchanted Circle, she assumed the Shape of an old Woman overwhelm'd with Sorrow. The Princess hearing of her, sent one of her Maids to know what was the Matter. The Maid return'd, and told her it was an old Woman laid on the Ground, who appear'd to be very ill, and desired her Assistance. Whereupon the Princess ran to her; and *Mauritiana* seeing her out of the Circle, catch'd hold of her Hand, and drawing a mysterious Circle round her, they were in an instant snatch'd away in a dark Cloud out of the Maid's Sight. Then *Mauritiana* put her into an Ebony Chariot drawn by Vultures, which flew in the Air with such Swiftneſs, that they soon gain'd her Palace.

At her Arrival all the Fairies came and paid their Respects to her. She alighted from her Chariot with *Florina*, who created in the Hearts of those Fairies different Sentiments. The good ones thought
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her very amiable, and pity'd her; and those who were of *Mauritiana's* Party could not look on her without Anger; which made them hope impatiently for an Opportunity to torment her. *Mauritiana* ordered the Princess to be conducted into one of the Apartments of her Palace, till she consider'd what she should do, and how she should use her: But lucky was it for her, that the Charge was given to one of the good Fairies, who took her by the Hand, and led her into a magnificent Apartment, the Furniture of which was of an inestimable Value.

The Fairy having placed her on a Settee, sat herself down by her, and did all she could to recover her out of the Surprise she was in. 'Alas! said the Princess, with a great Sigh, why am I forced from the happy Abode, where I liv'd with Satisfaction? What Crime have I committed, to be thus hurried away to a Place, which, all agreeable as it appears, still makes me apprehensive of ill Usage?' 'The Queen's Jealousy, said the Fairy, is the Cause of it: She designs you an ill Turn, if the good Fairies who are here prevent her not, and hinder her from carrying her Passion and Resentment as far as she would: We know you, and shall not suffer a Person guilty of no Crime to be ill used. As for me, who speak to you, I am sensible of your good Deeds, and should be guilty of the greatest Ingratitude, should I not assist you all that lies in my Power.'

'How have I, said the Princess, had the Opportunity of obliging you?' 'You shall hear, said the Fairy, by informing you who we are, and from whence we derive our Origin: The Stars that you see in the Firmament have every one a Genius that governs them: These Genii are all-powerful Spirits, and the Influences which proceed from the Stars are executed by their Orders. They have under their Command a great many Spirits, who bestow their Influence on proper Subjects.

104 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

‘over which they are appointed. We are these
‘Spirits, and these Influences are distributed under
‘our Conduct: We have no Bodies, but only such
‘as render us visible, and which are of so pure a
‘Nature, that they ought rather to be taken for
‘Spirits than Bodies: We delight more in human
‘Shape than any other, as being the most perfect.

‘Our Power is great: We dispose of the Ele-
‘ments, and all therein; and the compleat Know-
‘ledge we have, makes us do Things which Men
‘take for Prodigies, because they are ignorant of
‘the true Cause, and how, from our understand-
‘ing the Secrets of Nature, we are properly dispo-
‘sed to do good or ill, as we please.

‘We are not always benevolent; we partake of
‘the Influences of the Stars from whence we come,
‘which are either good or evil; the good being
‘given to reward Virtue, and the ill to punish
‘Vice.

‘We are not always present here; for when any
‘of us leave the Earth after the Time pretcribed
‘us, we return into that Star from whence we
‘came; which hath made some Philosophers say,
‘that we are dead; which is not true; for we die
‘not till the last Dissolution of the Universe.

‘All these Advantages are balanc’d; for every
‘Day we take a different Shape, as a *Wolf*, a *Ser-
‘pent*, a *Mouse*, or any other Animal which Fate
‘ordains; and if, under this Form, we receive any
‘mortal Wound, we actually die, without return-
‘ing to our Star. One Day, when I was a Weazel,
‘one of your Servants would have kill’d me, but you
‘hindered the Stroke; and then I conceal’d myself,
‘recollecting that I was a Fairy.’ Saying this, she
embraced the Princess, who was glad she had done
an Action, from which she could never have
thought of receiving so much Satisfaction.

The Fairy took a Golden Wand, which she
had under her Garment, with which she struck
the Floor where they were, and there ap-
pear’d

pear'd a magnificent Table, set out with the finest Fruits, which she presented to *Florina*: 'They are excellent, *said she*, and you have occasion for them, not having had any Refreshment since you left your own Palace.' The Princess could not refuse, but eat, and shared of her extraordinary Bounty. Afterwards the Fairy struck her Wand upon the Floor again, and the Table vanish'd: 'We must dissemble our Friendship before others, *said the Fairy*, as much as we can, that we may be the better capable to serve you.' Then she made a Present to the Princess of a Bottle of immortal Water of Life. 'Keep this, *said she*, it will be very useful to you; this Water has the Property to change the Nature of Poisons, and make them salutary which were deadly; the Bottle will always remain full. This is the first Assistance which I can give you; as Occasion offers, I will furnish you with fresh Supplies, to shew you my Gratitude.'

Mauritiana call'd a Council of Fairies, and said thus, 'This Person whom you saw alight from my Car, is a Princess, whose Reputation is so great, that Mortals think her a Goddess; the Fame of which reaching my Ears, raised my Curiosity to that Height, that I went to see her; and she appear'd to have a noble Presence, unlike the common People of the World; therefore I resolv'd to know if those Accomplishments which belonged to none but Fairies, could stand the Proofs of Fairies; and therefore I judg'd it proper to bring her away, and make such Tryals of her as may discover the Truth.'

The Fairies, who were of the same Disposition and Party with *Mauritiana*, approv'd of her Opinion, and propos'd the most difficult Tryals as slight Matters easily to be done. But one of the Fairies, who had always been one of the chief Counsellors of *Luciana*, the true Queen, told them, that *Florina* appear'd throughout all her Actions to

106 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

very modest ; and that she had no Inclination but for her good ; that the charitable Action she had done, which was the Cause of her being in the Queen's Power, might let them know sufficiently the Motions of her Soul, and therefore that the slightest Proofs were enough to impose upon her.

Mauvritiana having observed that her reasoning appear'd judicious to the Company, was afraid that another Argument urged with the same Force, would oppose her Designs, and said, That to avoid the Tediuousness of long Debates, it would be necessary to tell her her Fate ; and hence every one might judge what she thought proper for her to do. This Advice was receiv'd, and the poor *Florina* was condemn'd to spin a Web that would separate Day and Night. This Order was given to one of the worst of the Fairies, to acquaint her with it, and deliver her Materials for the Work.

This Fairy was glad to be charged with this Commission: She went to *Florina*, and forgot not the least Circumstance of her Order. The poor Princess could not have supported herself, but through the sweet Hopes she conceiv'd, that the Fairy who lov'd her would not forsake her. She heard respectfully what the Fairy said, and receiv'd what was brought her, which was a Reel of Ebony, a Spindle of Ivory and Cobwebs, which might serve her to spin the Thread, and make the Web. ' I doubt not, *said the Fairy*, but you ' are so ingenious, as to know well enough how ' to put the Thread upon the Reel, and to beat ' the Cobwebs, so that the Filth which they have ' contracted may fly out. Here's a little Switch for ' you ; we hope you'll think yourself happy in the ' Beauty of your Work, and do Justice to it.' This said, she conducted her into a Place appointed for her to work in. It was a Closet, where the Floor and Cieling were of black Marble, and the Furniture of Ebony, with a little white damask Bed to repose on ; in short, this Place was nothing but a
little

little Dungeon, which had no Light come in but only so much as to make it more dismal.

The Fairy left the Princess alone in this Apartment, advising her to be diligent to please them, or else she would be disgrac'd; and that she would make use of her Interest with the Queen to serve her. *Florina*, after having survey'd the Place, took up the Web, and, from the first Stroke she laid upon it with her Wand, there came forth such a Number of large Spiders, which stunk so abominably, as that they had like to have destroy'd her. This Wand which was given her, was of the Service-Tree, which has a Quality to recal a latent Poison that hath been dead. The Princess sigh'd, and without giving way to her Sorrow, struggled every Way to free herself: She recollected, that the Bottle of immortal Water, which her Friend had given her, would expel the Poison, and pour'd it on the Cobwebs, when in an Instant the Spiders vanish'd, and the Web became as white as Snow: She took it, and wound it on her Reel, which she had rubb'd with a little of the said Water. She spun it afterwards, and cover'd her Spindle with a Thread as fine as the expertest Fairy could make.

The Fairy, who had in Council spoké in favour of *Florina*, melancholy with what she had heard pronounc'd against her, went out concern'd into one of the Walks of the Garden: Prince *Probus*, *Mauritiana's* Son, meeting with her, said, 'I beseech you, sage Fairy, you would let me know the Reason of your Sadness; if I can help you, depend upon my Friendship.' The Fairy thought herself oblig'd to answer ingenuously to so generous a Prince: She told him 'twas his Mother, who had done an Act of Injustice. Policy would have engag'd her to make a Mystery of this, and dissemble her Thoughts; but as she knew him thoroughly virtuous, she would not hide from him the Secret: That his Mother had stole away, and kept Prisoner in her Court, a young Princess, whose M

108 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

rit was so great, that she gain'd the Respect and Veneration of all Mankind. She told him, That the Queen imagin'd, that she had no other than a pretended Virtue, and that she attempted that which belong'd to none but Fairies; and that, holding a Council, she had gain'd so extraordinary and particular an Order, that, under the Pretence of Justice and Discovery of Truth, this poor Princess was condemn'd to spin a Web that should divide the Day from the Night.

' There is no Time to be lost, *reply'd* Probus ;
' this poor Princess must perish, if we don't presently relieve her ; I'll go and salute the Queen, who waits for me, and return in a Moment: See that every Thing be done, to give her what Assistance she wants with all Secrecy.' The Fairy who had conducted *Florina* to this Dungeon of a Work-House, to perform what she had enjoin'd her, return'd in hopes to find her dead, or at least expiring; but was much surpriz'd to see the Princess, who was laid down to repose herself on the Bed, had finish'd her Work with the utmost Perfection.

This first Design, which *Florina* had so happily escaped, afflicted the Fairy, for fear lest she should stand other Tryals impos'd upon her ; and this Grief or Resentment touch'd her so, that she could not speak to *Florina* otherwise than thus : ' I'll go and acquaint the Queen, that the Work is done.' This Fairy ran to her, and related what she had seen. The Queen continued some Time silent : ' They have given her, *said she*, their necessary Advice and Assistance: It will be useless for me to inform myself; bring her to me.' This Order was instantly obey'd. The Princess brought her Work, which she presented to the Queen: She receiv'd it with a seeming Satisfaction, commended her, and desired her to continue her Diligence, which would be the only Way to gain a Share in her Friendship.

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The Queen held a new Council, and found out the Means that *Florina* should go find out the Imperial Rose without Prickles. One of the Fairies was deputed to carry the Princess to the Entrance into the Road that led to the Mountain where this Flower was to be found, and to give her of the Seed to sow another, with what other Things were necessary during her journey.

The Fairy conducted *Florina* to the Entrance of the Road: 'Tis here, fair Princess, said she, that I must leave you, and beg that Heaven would guide you happily to the Place where you are to go: I have brought several Persons hither; but some, by their Imprudence, have perish'd, because they would not take the Advice of a Fairy, which you will find in the Way; but some who have obey'd, have accomplish'd the Task impos'd on them: Do then what is directed you, and I shall have the Pleasure of seeing you triumphant with the Flower you go to find. And then embracing, they parted. A few Paces from thence, the Princess found a Road very broad, strait, and open to the Sight: This Way was in the Middle of a great Wood of Palms, Oranges, and Citrons; the Earth was enamell'd with all Sorts of beautiful sweet Flowers, and wonderfully divided by an infinite Number of small Streams and Canals, which, by their different Windings and Turnings, form'd Meadows, whose murmuring Sounds charm'd the Ear; while the Birds, in Concerts, inspired every Thing we can think of that is tender and agreeable.

Florina follow'd the Road without Disturbance, and arriv'd insensibly at the End: Here she found a Grand Portico, magnificently built, which join'd to a Palace not less stately, where was one Walk higher than the rest, on which was a Lodge, in which *Rationtina*, who was the Fairy that wasto advise her, delighted. In approaching the Portico, the Princess saw the Fairy, who came to re

110 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

ceive her : She was full of Caresses, to which *Florina* made suitable Returns. *Rationtina* conducted her into the Palace, and made her sit down on a rich Bed. This Fairy never came out but to receive Persons who passed by the Portico, to give them grave Advice what they were to do. She ask'd *Florina* the Occasion of her Journey; who told her that the Fairy Council had sent her to find the Imperial Rose without Prickles. ' You ' will succeed, *said the Fairy*, if you will do as I bid ' you : Many have search'd before you ; those ' who have believ'd me have found it, and others ' have miserably perished for not regarding me. ' A little Distance hence you will meet with Persons, who will appear very agreeable to you, and ' press you close to engage you to stay with them ; ' they will attempt to persuade you, that they can ' give you all the Pleasures of Life ; take care not ' to believe them ; for they intend nothing but ' your Destruction : The short Time you are with ' them, you will discover Falshood and Lying.

' You will find others that will come to persuade you the same Thing, and yet are more dangerous than the first ; avoid them presently. After them ' you will meet with others, whose Wits are more ' delicate, insinuating, and persuasive, who have ' Arts to surprize those they see, as soon as they ' listen to them. My Princess, as soon as you ' come among them, think that you are in a thin ' contagious Air ; keep yourself close and reserved ' from their fatal Attempts, and be assured that ' you have no need of any Thing but the Imperial ' Rose in this Journey. Take nothing of the Inhabitants that they offer you ; for 'tis to ruin you. If you are obedient, you will arrive happily at the Foot of the Mountain where the Flower is, and not fail to find it. I will give you my Son for your Guide ; though he looks ' like a Child, he knows the Road, and will prevent you from going wrong.

' But

‘ But, Madam, *reply’d the Princess*, is it so difficult to find this Flower? and must one take such great Circumspection to succeed?’ ‘ There is no need, *said the Fairy*, of so much Care as you think; there only wants an Integrity of Mind and a firm Resolution: I believe you don’t want that; which makes me think you will succeed.’ ‘ I foresee, *said the Princess*, there are few Persons who have undertaken so dangerous a Project.’ ‘ Undeceive yourself, my Princess, *reply’d the Fairy*, this Adventure is to be undertaken by all the World; and I have seen silly Shepherds succeed better than Kings and Queens.’ Saying this, she carried *Florina* into a Hall, which had the Prospect of a very beautiful Garden, where she had provided an Entertainment that wanted nothing you could wish for: The Princess eat; and when she had done, the Fairy brought her Son to wait on her as *Florina’s* Gentleman-Usher; and after making her Compliments, the Princess left her, to pursue her Journey.

Mauritiana all this Time was disconsolate that *Florina* had effectually escaped their Revenge in the first Tryal, and was afraid she would still escape by the same Perfection. Her Friends on the other side were as much tormented as she: But while they endeavour’d to hide their Melancholy from the rest, the Prince and the Counsellor Fairy met together in a Grove of the Garden to divert themselves, and find out who it was that serv’d *Florina*. During that their Conversation, the Fairy, who was *Florina’s* good Friend, arrived, and informed them, that it was she that reliev’d her, and after what Manner. The Prince and the other Fairy congratulated her with an inconceivable Joy. ‘ I see plainly, *said the Prince*, that this Person is one of great Merit, since she knew so well how to make use of the Water you so seasonably gave her, and which was so valuable to her. Hence we may

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112 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

'suppose that the Beauties of her Mind excel those of the Body.'

'You need not doubt it, *said Florina's Fairy Friend* :
'knew her in her own Palace, from whence she
'was brought hither, and always found in her that
'brilliant Wit and shining Virtue, which, join'd
'to the Obligations I receiv'd, obliges me to
'neglect nothing to serve her that I am able to do.'
'And I, *said the Prince*, will second you : She is
'gone to find the Imperial Rose : I'll go and serve
'her, to the End that she may return with that
'Flower ; for I am persuaded that it was never gather'd by any body that deserv'd better.'

Florina, after leaving *Rationtina*, enter'd into a delicate Wood, which had a great many Tracks half beaten, and crossing one the other, which made it very intricate to find a direct Passage. The little Guide, seeing her concern'd, smil'd ; and running before, soon convinc'd her that he knew his Road. The Princess was surpriz'd to see a Child so certain in so difficult a Passage ; 'I have a great Curiosity, *said she*, to know how you come to be so well acquainted with the Way.' 'I have, *said he*, conducted hither several Persons ; so that 'tis impossible for those that follow me to lose their Way.'
'But how is it, *said Florina*, that you should do this, being so young ?'

'I am not so young as you imagine, *reply'd the Conductor* : I am as old as the first Man ; and my Youth will last as long as any continue upon the Earth. I cannot grow old, as being the Son of *Rationtina*, which signifies Reason, which is the Daughter of Heaven, who always gives me a blooming Youth.'
'But, dear Guide, *said Florina*, is your Mother of the Race of the Fairies ?' She is as much a Fairy as the rest, *reply'd he*, but of an Origin much nobler and more elevated than those you have seen : Those are only Children of the Stars, whose Power extend over material and sensible Things ;
'but my Mother, on the contrary, is a Daughter of
'Hea-

‘ Heaven, and her Power is over Souls; and by her
‘ wife Advice she influences the Wills of Mortals,
‘ whence ’tis she is call’d *Rationtina*, or the Princess
‘ of Reason. Those who are affected by her Mo-
‘ tions never miscarry, or fail to be happy.’

‘ But, *said Florina*, since your Mother is sent
‘ from Heaven to be a Director to us, how comes it
‘ that she always resides in that Palace? There are
‘ but few People that can find her out; otherwise
‘ they might improve themselves from her Advice,
‘ if they had the same Advantage that I have had.
‘ That Palace which you have seen, *said the little*
‘ *Guide*, is so well situated, that they may come
‘ thither from all Parts of the World; and that
‘ high Tower, where my Mother generally resides,
‘ is so contriv’d, that she can from thence distinctly
‘ discover all the other Parts o’ the Earth; and when
‘ she sees any one hath need of her, she goes to ’em,
‘ or sends me to help them: But her Inclination is
‘ much greater for those who come to her the Way
‘ that you have taken.’

‘ How comes it, *answer’d Florina*, that those who
‘ come to her do not all do it by the same Way?’
‘ No, *said the little Guide*, few People come this
‘ Way; and those who do, stay so long, that they
‘ hardly ever get back again.’ ‘ I am not surpriz’d
‘ at that, *said the Princess*; for ’tis hard for a young
‘ Creature to pass thro’ so agreeable a Place of li-
‘ ving hastily.’ ‘ You have not yet stopp’d on the
‘ Road, *said the little Conductor*; and all that which is
‘ so engaging in the Place, has not hinder’d you a
‘ Moment from the Execution of your Orders.’

‘ I know not, *said the Princess*, how that can be
‘ done.’ ‘ ’Twas that, *said the little Guide*, that made
‘ me say to my Mother, that you would gain the
‘ Prize of the Imperial Rose; for the End of the
‘ Way is so full of Delights, representing the Plea-
‘ sures of Infancy, where those whose Souls are
‘ well descended love not to stay long, being am-
‘ bitious of coming early to my Mother’s Palace.’

114 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

‘ who always receives them with extream Tender-
 ‘ nefs; and these are such Persons as she commits
 ‘ to my Care and Conduct.’

In talking thus, they came out of the Wood, and enter’d into a Plain, where they perceived at a Distance some Dwelling-Houses. Cross the Plain there was a Valley; at the Bottom of which run a River by a Wood’s Side; the pleasing Sight of which redoubling itself in the Reflexion of the Water, made an agreeable Landskip. There they met with several young Persons laid upon the Grass, under the Shade of the Grove; who, as soon as they saw the Princess, rose up and saluted her. One among the rest civilly addressing herself to her, said, ‘ Give me leave, Madam, to ask you
 ‘ where you are going, and by what Chance you
 ‘ arrived in this Place? And since you are here,
 ‘ whether we shall be so happy as to be any Ways
 ‘ serviceable to you? The Sentiments of Respect
 ‘ and Friendship which you inspire us with, Ma-
 ‘ dam, are uncommon: We are readily perswaded
 ‘ in seeing you, that if you are not a Goddess, you
 ‘ are at least a great Princess.’ ‘ I am going, an-
 ‘ swer’d Florina, to find the Imperial Rose without
 ‘ Prickles.’ ‘ The Design is worthy of you, Ma-
 ‘ dam: We are not then deceiv’d in the Judgment
 ‘ we form’d of you. I believe you are too obliging
 ‘ to refuse us your Company to a Place of Refresh-
 ‘ ment, and to stay a few Days with us.’ ‘ I can-
 ‘ not do it, said the Princess; my Design will not al-
 ‘ low me to stay any where: The Fairies have sent
 ‘ me, and they will be readily obey’d.’ ‘ That
 ‘ will not set you at Variance with them, reply’d the
 ‘ same Person that spoke first to her: They are sensible
 ‘ that you must take some Days of Rest, the better
 ‘ to enable you to bear the Fatigues of the Journey.
 ‘ You cannot meet with a pleasanter Place on the
 ‘ Road than ours, or any Persons more zealous to
 ‘ serve you. We are impatient to have you share
 ‘ with us the Pleasures we enjoy: Do us the Honour
 ‘ then.

‘ then, Madam, and not the Mortification to refuse
 ‘ us, who are entirely in your Interest. We are
 ‘ just at the Palace-Door, and cannot suffer you to
 ‘ go by without a Refreshment.’ All the other Ladies with her join’d in their Intreaties, and surrounded her, so that *Florina* yielded to their Importunities and Caresses.

At a little Distance they were met by *Ociosina*, or *Idleness*, the Princess of the Place, who was walking out with the Retinue of her Court. She graciously received *Florina*, and conducted her into her Palace, where she made her sit down in an Elbow-Chair by her. *Ociosina* loll’d herself upon a sort of Couch, or Sopha, in a Corner of the Room. The Wainscot and Cieling were of very fine Glast, and the Floor of Cedar. The Sopha was cover’d with a Silver Brocade, and stuff’d with Down: The Curtains which form’d the Canopy were of Cloth of Gold, deck’d within and without with Rubies, Diamonds, Emeralds, and other precious Stones. All the other Apartments of the Palace were not less magnificent; particularly a great Number of Down Beds, Easy Chairs, Couches, Settees, Tables, Toilets, and Glasses. All the Persons of the Court being seated about the Princess according to their Rank, *Ociosina* turn’d herself towards *Florina*, and ask’d her what the Occasion of her Journey was. *Florina* answer’d, that it was to find the Imperial Rose. ‘ I am very much surpriz’d, said the Princess, that being so young, you should undertake so difficult a Task. ’Tis enough, continued she, for one of full Age and Strength to engage in. Instead of going farther, and attempting such a Thing to no Purpose, stay some Time here, and you will be made sensible that it is out of your Power. I have Ladies in my Court who have made the same Tryals you are going about; but have been oblig’d thro’ Necessity to stop their Journey, and take the Advice we offer you.’

116 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

One Lady of the Circle rising from her Seat here-upon, and addressing herself to *Florina*, said, ‘ Madam, I am one of those Persons whom the Princess hath spoke of: I went to the Palace of *Rationtina*, to try the same Adventure which you do; but was no sooner well in the Road, but I found a Lassitude and insupportable Oppression upon me. I was forc’d to sit down, and found myself under great Uneasiness for what I had undertaken, till *Rationtina*’s Son came to me. This Child is call’d *Philaphtica*, that is, Love. His Presence dissipated my Trouble, and he conducted me to the Princess you see here, who hath bestowed a thousand Favours upon me, and who hath every Thing that is pleasing and agreable about her Court.’

As the Lady had done speaking, the little *Philaphtica*, whom she mention’d, came in; but perceiving *Florina*’s Guide there, he retir’d. During this Time the Princess *Ociosina* fell asleep; and *Florina* found herself so dejected, that she had not Strength to ask her little Leader, if he that appear’d there was his Brother. All the Ladies seeing their Princess asleep, betook themselves to what they liked best; some to the Toilet, others to lie down to Rest; some in Arm’d-Chairs, others again on Couches; while several enter’d into Discourse of Dress, &c. Others there were who retir’d to Cards, which they manag’d with a surprizing Dexterity. *Florina*, who was yet seated by the Queen, and who knew nothing of these kind of Diversions, admired how the Motion of the Cards should make such frequent Changes, and wanted to know why in that Time there appear’d in the Women’s Face Joy, Love, Anger, Rage, and all other Passions, one succeeding another.

Ociosina being waked, all the Ladies attended her, and serv’d up a Collation of Fruits in the finest Order in the World. The Princess, without rising from her Place, could conveniently reach to whatever was set upon the Table. *Florina* remain’d upon
her

her Seat, very attentive to examine whatever pass'd, feeling in her Mind terrible Agitations, in reflecting on the Advice that *Rationtina* had given her, on what she had seen, and what she had heard. In this Confusion they help'd her to whatever was choice upon they Table, and without thinking on what she did, she was going to taste; when her little *Conductor* spread his Wings, which were on his Shoulders, and which *Florina* had not yet seen, which obscur'd *Florina's* with a black Mist that surrounded them. And soon after, this Exhalation dissipating, *Florina* knew that all she had seen was nothing but Artifice; and that the Fruits were either empty, or fill'd with Poison. Upon which she immediately rose, and follow'd her Guide, who convey'd her from so pernicious a Place.

After they had got out of the Limits of the Palace, they enter'd an Avenne planted with double Rows of Elms, Ashes, and Limes, which form'd agreeable *Visto's*. *Florina* thought presently that it was the Way they ought to go; but her little Guide stopp'd her, and let her know that she should not always go the first Way which seems agreeable to us; for the Ways which please us most, are not usually the happiest. Then the Princess went into a Path, or By-way, cover'd with Briars and Thorns, where it was very difficult to pass: Upon which she could not help saying to her Conductor, 'Why have you forc'd me to leave a Road which appear'd plain, to take one that is so rough and unpassable?' 'That which you have taken, reply'd the Guide, leads directly to the Palace of Pleasure, which is what my Mother told you would be so pernicious, and where you would be more expos'd than you have been in that of Laziness, which we have quitted.' 'How I am oblig'd to you, my dear Conductor! said *Florina*. I am very sensible of your Kindness. But pray tell me, is there no other Road more easy to pursue our Journey in?' 'This is the shortest Way, reply'd the Guide.'

110 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

‘ Road is not difficult but at the Entrance. The others you would take, are indeed more commodious to Appearance, but very easy to lose one’s Way in; and you will meet with Abundance of Misfortunes there, you cannot well avoid.’

In a little Time after they arriv’d in a Plain, where the Land, no ways ungrateful to the Tiller’s Care, made it a most delightful Place. This Plain was sown with Corn, and the Hills which surrounded it were covered with Vines and Fruit-Trees. In the Admiration of so fine a Place *Florina* lost all Thoughts of her Fatigue, but express’d to her dear Guide the Joy she felt in being brought into so charming Country. She took the Opportunity of asking him, if the little *Philaphtica*, that she saw in *Ociosina*’s Palace, was his Brother, and why he retired with so much Haste.

‘ He is not my Brother, *answer’d he*: I am an only Son, and my Mother never had any other Child but me. She nam’d me *Agatonphisa*, which signifies Good Sense; and him that you have is an Impostor, who, to surprise Mortals with the more Ease, and abuse their Simplicity, says that he is my Brother, and sometimes passes for me. ’Tis by this Means that he leads those who believe in him to their Ruin. He came with no other Design than to surprize you; but when he saw that I attended you, he went another Way.

‘ I don’t wonder, *said Florina*, that he retired so suddenly: Nobody loves to be found in the Company of those whom they would pass for.’ In speaking this, they saw a Cottage cover’d over with Vines, which form’d an Arbour of Muscadine, and other exquisite Grapes; where one might see Orchards of a vast Extent planted with all Sorts of hortulan Fruits, and numerous Espaliers of Peaches, Abricocks, and Nectarines of a prodigious Size. On the other side, the Eye survey’d a large Kitchen-Garden full of *wholesome* Plants and Roots, necessary for the Use of Life. The Person that cultivated this Place was call’d

call'd *Ergonides*, which signifies Industry; whom they found with a Spade in his Hand, solliciting Nature to bestow on him that Plenty they saw before him.

As soon as he perceived the Travellers, he went up to them; and after saluting of *Florina*, he gave *Agatonphis*a a thousand Caresses, which the other return'd. Then he conducted them into the Shade, under one of the Arbours, where he entertain'd them with a Country Collation of the best Fruits he had. The Princess durst not touch them; but when she saw her little Leader take of 'em, she eat, and found them of an excellent Flavour. The Collation ended, *Ergonides* let them see his Menagery. *Florina* was charm'd with the Propriety and fine Order in which every Thing was dispos'd, and to see that this Man was indebted for all these Things to his great Diligence and Industry. After Expressions of their Friendship and Gratitude, they left *Ergonides*, and continued on their Journey.

Upon the Road *Florina*, discoursing with *Agatonphis*a, said, 'There's a Man, speaking of *Ergonides*, who appears all Content, and lives a perfect easy Life!' 'He labours, and that is so great a Pleasure to him,' reply'd the Guide, that he would not change his Condition with the greatest King on Earth. He is a Friend of my Mother's, and always comes to consult us when he has any Affairs to transact. He is a Son of the Sky, as she is a Daughter; and 'tis he that shews Men that Labour is necessary to prolong their Days on Earth, and the most certain Resource to fly to against the indispensable Necessities of Life.'

During this Conversation, the Princess heard a *Retournello* of soft Flutes, which sensibly pleas'd her Ear: 'How agreeable is this Musick!' said she. I find myself seiz'd with Pleasure, and in a kind of Transport, that will not let me go much further. Harken, I beseech you, my dear Conductor; let us see what it is, and whence it comes.'

120 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

‘ care of your self, *answer’d he*; there is nothing more dangerous than for you to stay here: That which gives you so much Pleasure, you will find presently frightful, if you understood the Cause.’

He had no sooner done speaking, but a vast Number of People of both Sexes appeared, who play’d the fool together after an extravagant Manner. The Women were half naked, without Shame or Confusion; and the Men, debauch’d with Liquors, had less Modesty or Discretion. The Princess trembled with Fear and Horror at such a disorderly Sight, and they seeming to approach nearer, she stole off, and fled with a surprizing Swiftness. *Florina* being got at some Distance out of Sight, stopp’d a while to breathe; and turning towards her Guide, said, with a Trembling on her Speech, ‘ These People have frighted me so, I am not yet recover’d.’ ‘ You have done prudently, *said Agatonphisa*: ’Twas only Flight whereby you could have escap’d the fatal Poison of these detestable Enchanters; and if you should stay to rest here a little, you would fall into their Snare, and run the Hazard of being undone like them.’

Florina being recover’d out of her Confusion, and comforted by her faithful Guide, pursued the Road, and found her self advanced in a Plain which border’d upon a Mountain that seem’d a vast Distance off. The Way that led to it was very direct, without the Appearance of Rivers, Brooks, Woods, Groves, or any other Place convenient for Repose. *Florina* ask’d *Agatonphisa* what that Mountain was they saw there. ‘ That is the End of your Journey, *said he*, and the Place where the Rose grows that you are in search after.’ The Princess leaped for Joy at this Answer; and believing she should by the Evening come to gather the Imperial Rose, redoubled her Steps and Diligence; but the more she advanced, the farther off the Mountain seem’d to be, so that it made her melancholy, impatient, and weary; and the Sun shining directly on her
Head,

Head, quite confounded her, so that she resolved to take another Road, which seem'd more agreeable, on the Left Hand, and would lead her to the same Place as that wherein she was. *Agatonphisa* not being consulted, let her alone; and *Florina* continued to pursue this new Way, where she found some Shade which she could not have expected; but the Unevenness of the Ground insensibly made an Interposition betwixt them and the Mountain, so that they lost Sight of it. Nevertheless she continued to march on, more thro' Humour than Reflexion, and at last came to a Town. The Houses were plain built, but very handsome within. At the Entrance into this Place, the Princess found the Men of modest Behaviour, who conversed together after a civil and reserved Manner, and who saw 'em pass by with a great deal of Indifference. She met others more shy, who shew'd no Manner of Curiosity or Concern for her; and continuing the Road, she came into a publick Place, where a Woman address'd her with a sweet affable Air, and let her know that she was sensible of the Uneasiness she was under, and that she might confide so far in her, to let her understand what disturb'd her, assuring her she would use her as if she was her own Sister; for that she had a natural Inclination to serve her. She likewise insinuated to her, that the Place where they were, was not so proper for Persons of their Sex to hold a Conversation in, therefore she begg'd of her to go in and rest her self, for that then they might have the Liberty of saying what they pleas'd. *Florina* believ'd her, and went in, when in a Moment the neighbouring Ladies came to visit her, where they found the fair Stranger; and observing her diligently, were struck with Admiration, and ask'd her civilly from whence she came. 'I come, said *Florina*, from the Palace of *Rationtina*.' The Ladies pitied her, and said that she might well be tired; and presently after let her know, they should be glad to be inform'd

122 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

what she had met with on the Road. *Florina* related what had happen'd with the Princess *Ociosna*, and what she had seen at *Ergonides's* Cottage; and the Fright she was put into by the mad Company she saw in the Way. 'Do me the Favour, *said one of the Ladies*, to tell me where you design to go now?' 'I am going, *answer'd the Princess*, to find the Imperial Rose without Prickles.' 'You may find it, *answer'd the Lady*, on our Lands: And since you are engag'd in so noble a Design, we shall think our selves oblig'd to give you Assistance, in order to succeed.' Which they all repeated very obligingly. During this Conversation, there enter'd a Man of a modest Look, being very civil, and well bred. Upon which, all the Ladies rose up with great Respect, to offer him their Seats; and then a Servant very officiously brought in an Elbow-Chair, which was set in the best Part of the Room, where he seated himself. And being inform'd of the Subject of their Discourse, one of the Ladies told him that the Stranger which he saw there came from *Rationtina's* Palace to find the Imperial Rose; and being come into their Town without knowing anybody, they had tender'd her their Service; and that since her Arrival there, she had related her Adventures upon the Road.

This Man turning towards *Florina*, express'd his Pleasure upon her Design; and after wishing her much Joy on her Success, he told her, that Heaven had been favourable to her, since she fell into the Hands of so select a Company, who had the very same Designs with her self in pursuing that most excellent Enquiry; and that she could not fail under their Conduct to gain the Prize: And that for his Part, he would assist them with all the Light possible to clear up the Difficulties, and to make them surmount all the Obstacles they should meet with; and after that went away. These Words made not a little Impression on the Princess: She depended on these Promises so much, that she flatter'd her

self to be already possess'd of the Flower. This agreeable Illusion had continued, if the Advice which *Rationtina* gave her had not alarm'd her, by making her always sensible of her Inconstancy, and of that Credulity which would be her Ruin. She was likewise alarm'd to see her dear *Agatonphisa* all this Time mute, and in a kind of Lethargy, from which she could not wake him. This was a Damp to her Joy, and the intended Measures of that Protector or Guide.

After the Man was gone, one of the Ladies told *Florina*, that the Person who just now left them was their Conductor in the Enquiry they were making, as well as she, after that incomparable Flower. 'He is a Man, said she, Madam, of great Probity and profound Knowledge, and particularly in this Discovery: He hath the Goodness to instruct us, and to communicate to us such Lights as we are capable of receiving and making an Improvement of. Then assure your self, Madam that this Flower is the Symbol of Virtue, which makes all those happy who possess it. Several fancy, that to enjoy this Treasure, they should strip themselves, and mortify their Passions; but they deceive themselves. It is proper indeed to calm and temper 'em so that they shall not be discovered; but it was no Way necessary that we should be depriv'd of what Nature has given us.'

In that Moment of Time the little *Philaphtica* appear'd to *Florina*, and did what he could to introduce himself. *Agatonphisa* gave him a scornful Glance; upon which *Philaphtica* appear'd no more. The Lady who had detain'd *Florina*, said, 'Tis some Time that we have been here; let us go and refresh our selves, and then continue to give such Instructions to this fair Lady as are necessary.' They all rose to go into the next Room. But *Agatonphisa* seeing that *Florina* was going to be lost with the rest, spread his Wings, and taking two or three Turns before *Florina*, by an impetuous Motion he

124 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

scatter'd a contagious Air around her, which aided her Escape. *Philapbtica* was so frightened, that he fled, and left the Princess alone. *Agatonpbisa* took her by the Hand, and conducted her to a Mountain at a Distance, where he told her the Danger she had been in, and what secret Communications that Place had with the Palace of Pleasure.

Florina was very melancholy upon the Reflexion of what had like to have happen'd to her, and knew not how to return the vast Obligations she had to her dear *Agatonpbisa*, from off whom she never cast her Eyes till she came to the Foot of the Mountain, which was border'd with Cedars and Palms of a great Height. The Rock appear'd so steep, that *Florina* believ'd it inaccessible, and that she should never be able to mount it. She took several Turns to discover which Way she might get up; but finding none, she fell into the last Despair. Prince *Probus*, Son of *Mauritiana*, would not suffer her to be long in this cruel Uneasiness, but presented himself before her. That Prince being known to her, by having seen him at the Fairy's Palace, where he was look'd upon by every body as a Man of great Merit, was so far from giving her the least Disturbance, that he gave her a secret Pleasure.

'How comes it my Princess, said *Probus*, you do not ascend to the Top of that Mountain, to gather the Imperial Rose, which is to be the Reward of your Journey?' 'It is a long Time, my Prince, reply'd *Florina*, that I have sought how to do it, but in vain; and the Thing appears impossible.' The Prince smil'd at her Answer, and said, 'Princess, follow me.' At that Instant he came to a very large high Tree, which join'd to the Foot of the Mountain, and bid *Florina* observe that that Tree had Knots and Branches, by the Means of which they might ascend. He actually mounted, and the Princess follow'd him: They climb'd so well from Bough to Bough, and from Knot to Knot, that they

they got up half the Way, till the Rock was so form'd, that they could easily gain the Top of the Mountain. *Florina* could scarce contain herself for Joy, to find her self upon the Plain where the Flower grew that was to crown her with a Triumph. This Pleasure enliven'd her with every Thing that was gay. She express'd her Gratitude to *Probus* for the Favours he had done her. 'I could not delay doing you this little Piece of Service, said the Prince: My Inclination for you engag'd me to it; and the Fairy, your good Friend, hath sufficiently solicited me.' 'How am I indebted to that charming Fairy, cry'd *Florina*, after all that she has done for me, to send so great a Prince to me, who being sensible of my Grief, came himself to deliver me from my Despair, and conduct me to the greatest Happiness.'

'Princess, said *Probus*, see there the Road that leads you to the Palace of *Perseverance*, who will shew you the Flower. You will meet with me in your Return, to convey you speedily to my Mother's Court.' The Princess pursu'd the Road, and arriv'd at the Palace, where she found the Lady, who received her very agreeably, and conducted her to the Flowery Field, where this precious Pledge was. 'Tis hard to conceive the Sentiments of Pleasure and Joy that seiz'd the Princess at the Sight of this Treasure. The Fear she was in lest her Eyes should deceive her, made her greedily snatch at this incomparable Flower; and the Earth being stripp'd, appear'd chang'd, opening itself, which serv'd as a Mouth, to say to *Florina*, That she ought to be comforted. The Princess seeing in a Moment the Place so well prepared to receive the Seed, recollected that Grain that she had about her should be sow'd in the same Place from whence she had gather'd the Flower; and had the Pleasure to see Nature produce again another like that which she had gather'd.

Florina having got the Imperial Rose, thought of nothing now but returning, and therefore took

126 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

same Road by which she came. The Prince, who waited for her, seeing her take this Way, stopp'd her, and said, ' Princess, this Road is too tedious, ' and you should never return with that Flower the ' same Way that you went to gather it; we must ' take a shorter Course.' And giving her his Hand, he conducted her by a most agreeable Way, till she insensibly arriv'd at the Palace of the Fairies.

Fame presently publish'd thro' the Fairy Court, that *Florina* was return'd with the precious Treasure. The good Fairies could not contain themselves for Joy; and *Mauritiana* found her self at last obliged to confess publicly, that *Florina* deserv'd a Reward worthy of her Labour. *Florina*, in her Return, was altogether under the Conduct of the Prince; and when they were come near the Palace, *Probus* said to her, ' I must leave you, my ' Princess, for fear of being seen. You are in a direct Road, and cannot go astray again.'

The Princess continued her Way, lifting up her Eyes to Heaven, to give Thanks for the Favours she had receiv'd; and *Mauritiana* had assembled her Council, who waited to receive *Florina* with great Magnificence. When she came to the Gates of the Palace, *Mauritiana*, attended with all her Court, went to receive her, presenting her with a Chariot, on which they oblig'd her to mount. The Chariot was of Gold richly wrought, and drawn by four fine white Horses harness'd variously. The first Harness was cover'd with Saphirs; the second with several precious Stones, as Agates, Onix, Topaz, and Rubies; the third was with Diamonds; and the fourth with Amethysts of an inestimable Value. Four Fairies led the Horses with Silk and Golden Reins.

The Princess in this Equipage enter'd the Palace with the Acclamations of all the Fairies; and at the Foot of the great Stair-Case *Mauritiana* gave her her Hand to alight from her Chariot, and conducted her into the Hall, where a considerable Entertainment was provided, which was carried off with

with all Marks of Joy for her happy Return. Afterwards she was led into one of the finest Apartments of the Palace, to repose her self. The next Day *Florina* was conducted with the same Pomp and Magnificence to the Temple of Virtue, which was not far from the Palace, to return Thanks to Heaven for the Favours she had receiv'd during her Journey. There she deposited the Flower she brought, and receiv'd from *Mauritiana's* Hand a Crown consecrated to Virtue.

Florina being return'd to the Palace, and retiring into the Apartment prepar'd for her, the two Fairies her good Friends, and *Probus*, went to congratulate her in particular, and express the Joy they felt upon her Advancement. 'It is not to me, said the Princess, that these Praises which you attribute are due: 'Tis to the powerful Assistance you have given me, and particularly to that generous Prince. All my Pains had been fruitless, and I had remain'd at the Foot of the Mountain, depriv'd for ever of the Opportunity of gathering that Flower, and the Happiness of seeing you again.' 'Could I refuse, said the Prince, my poor Assistance to a Princess whom Heaven will protect for ever? The Law of Nature inspires and ordains that we should relieve those who want our Help.' 'There are few Persons, said the Princess, who have such valuable Sentiments: But after all, I am not less indebted to you for that Excess of Goodness you have shewn to me.' The Conversation continued some Time upon the Gratitude *Florina* acknowledg'd due to them for their Care of her, and pray'd them to continue the same to her. 'Our Duty obliges us, said the Counsellor Fairy, and we are sent upon Earth for no other End but to defend those who are unjustly persecuted.' And after a long Discourse, they left *Florina*, alone to rest her self after so much Fatigue. The good Fairy at parting said, 'Fear nothing farther, my dear Princess; live at Ease: No Body shall hurt

128 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

‘ hurt you.’ ‘ But, *said Florina*, I am not yet in
‘ in my own Palace.’ ‘ Time brings all Things to
‘ pass, *reply’d the Fairy* ; and we will manage your
‘ Affairs so well, that you shall have Reason to be
‘ satisfied.’ *Florina* thank’d them for their Care,
and begg’d a Continuation of their Favours ; which
the Fairy promised afresh : And after embracing
her, rejoin’d the other two, who were gone before,
and waited for her. Prince *Probus* and the Coun-
sellor Fairy seeing her arrive, propos’d to walk to-
gether in the Palace Gardens to discourse of all
that had happen’d upon the Subject of *Florina*.
They could not help admiring of her Merit, and
especially the Prince, who carry’d it so far, that
he gave Occasion to the Fairy, her good Friend, to
think that the Prince lov’d her. She conceiv’d a
secret Joy thereat, hoping thereby it would be more
useful to the Princesses. And to be the more assured of
it, seeing the Prince continued to praise her, she
said, ‘ Prince, I fancy that in this Commendation
‘ you have made of the Princess, there is something
‘ more than Admiration in it ; and if I am not de-
‘ ceiv’d, there is a little Inclination to Love in the
‘ Bottom.’ The Prince colour’d. Upon which the
two Fairies laugh’d ; and the grave Fairy said, That
it was not so surprizing a Thing, since it was diffi-
cult to see much Merit without having an Esteem ;
and that Esteem proceeding to Love, was too plea-
sing to be resisted : But on the other side, it would
be a surprizing Thing, if his Soul was limited or tied
down to a single Esteem. ‘ You then approve, sage
‘ Fairy, *said the Prince*, the Love I have for the
‘ Princess.’ ‘ Yes, *answer’d she*, you need not doubt
‘ it. Then the Prince could not forbear assuring
them, that he had all the Love for that Princess
that his Heart was capable of. ‘ ’Tis by these
‘ Deeds I know. Great Prince *Probus*, *said she*. you
‘ have perform’d all those bright Actions before :
‘ But to love persecuted Virtue is an unparall’d
‘ Action, and worthy of you.’ ‘ But, *reply’d the*
‘ Prince,

‘ Prince, what signifies my Love, since she that inspires my Passion is ignorant of it; and I cannot consent that you tell her, for fear of displeasing her.’ ‘ Fear nothing, (*said the Fairy, Florina’s good Friend,*) that is too plain and agreeable to be mistaken.’ ‘ Fair Fairy, *reply’d the Prince,* you flatter my Passion very agreeably: But tell me, I beseech you, when that is done, have I not every Thing to dread, and the greatest Obstacle to surmount? Will my Mother consent, when she finds ’tis for one against whom her Malice will never have an End?’ ‘ Heaven disposes of every Thing as it pleases, *said the Fairy Adviser:* I hope your Sentiments for the Princess will be approv’d thereby, and that you will be blessed with Means to execute your Designs. I foresee we shall ere long have some considerable Events happen at Court. The Glory of *Florina* gives the Queen most cruel Torments. She dissembles them fairly, but will resent it home at last, waiting only for an Opportunity to destroy her. I found her in one of the Groves of the Garden, only with her Confidant, and they appear’d to me very thoughtful and perplex’d; whence I judg’d they were contriving some grand Design. In the mean Time, Prince, conceal your Passion, and let *Florina* know nothing: Only do her all the good Offices you can; for that is the Way you are to arrive at the Happiness that you desire.’

The Fairy Counsellor was not at all deceiv’d in her Judgment, that *Florina’s* Glory occasion’d terrible Emotions or Disturbances in *Mauritiana’s* Soul. She retir’d every Day with her Confidant into the most retir’d Places of the Garden, to complain of her Grief. ‘ You see, *said she,* if I have not Reason to be afflicted; all the Snares which I have laid to destroy this Mortal, so odious to me, have only serv’d to increase her Happiness, and add to my Confusion and Despair. I would persecute her and destroy her, without discovering my Re-

130 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

'venge, and I am forced to prepare a Triumph for
 'her, and crown her with my own Hand. Unhap-
 'py Ambition! why hast thou carry'd me so far, to
 'make me undergo such cruel Punishment; let me
 'forlake the Place, where I am all-powerful, and
 'fly from the Advice, which opposes every Thing
 'that may flatter my Passion, without having the
 'Liberty to complain. My Son disapproves my
 'Conduct, tho' I have advanc'd him to the Dignity
 'of a Prince. You see almost all my Court
 'condemn me, and only pay me the Appearance of
 'Respect, which is due to the Glory that surrounds
 'me. Let me restore to *Felician* the Throne, from
 'which I have banish'd her, it will be more glo-
 'rious for me to procure her Restoration. Let me
 'live where I have establish'd an Empire, that will
 'make every body tremble under the Severity of
 'my Laws; imprudent as I am, my Passion has
 'blinded me, that I did not know when I saw this
 'Princess, that her Virtue was solid, and that Hea-
 'ven favour'd her.'

'But, said the *Confidant*, if this Princess hath sur-
 'mounted all the Difficulties she met with, 'tis
 'from the Advice she receiv'd from *Rationina*. 'Tis
 'true, reply'd the *Queen*; but *Rationina* only gave the
 'Advice; but it was by the Decree of Heaven she
 'executed it. A vast Number of People pass that
 'Way, whom she advises; but the Number of those
 'who follow it are so small, that this Princess is
 'almost the only Person who hath made an Ad-
 'vantage of it. Neither the Charms of the Palace
 'of *Ociosina*, besides the other Difficulties she met
 'with, could detain her. She arriv'd at the Foot of
 'the Mountain where the Flower grew, and there,
 'Heaven! by an unforeseen and wonderful Assis-
 'tance, found out the Means for her to ascend it.
 'That could not have been, answer'd the *Confidant*,
 'had not one of the Fairies help'd her to gain the
 'Height of that Mountain? And if it was so, have
 'not you the Right to punish and revoke what
 'you

‘ you have done for *Florina*, as a Conquest obtain’d
‘ contrary to the Laws?’

‘ No, *said Mauritian*, don’t you know that we
‘ inhabit the Earth to protect Virtue? And this
‘ Princess has too much, which sets me so against
‘ her, because she is not descended of the Fairies,
‘ and may let Mortals know that they may be vir-
‘ tuous without us; and when I shall come to dis-
‘ cover that any Fairy hath assisted her, I shall then
‘ be obliged to commend and reward her.’ ‘ I see,
‘ *said the Confidant*, that it is very difficult to oppress
‘ the Virtuous, without appearing unjust.’ ‘ ‘Tis
‘ that which torments me, *interrupted the Queen*, I
‘ have been too hasty; *Florina* is at present shel-
‘ ter’d by the Tryals she has gone through, and per-
‘ haps will rest there. I have but one Way left to
‘ flatter my Hopes, and that is to sollicite and per-
‘ suade her to undertake to go and find out the
‘ Queen *Felician* in the wonderful Labyrinth; and
‘ as she cannot foresee the Dangers therein to be
‘ met withal, she may perhaps generously engage
‘ in it.’ ‘ But, *said the Confidant*, if *Florina* return
‘ with the Queen, you will be oblig’d to surrender
‘ the Crown.’ ‘ What signifies that, *reply’d Mauritia-*
‘ *na*, after what is pass’d? it is indifferent to me
‘ whether I stay here, or return into my Islands:
‘ But how agreeable will it be to me to have *Florina*
‘ destroy’d? I shall then be freed from a Person I
‘ cannot bear. You know if they once enter into
‘ the Labyrinth, they cannot come forth without
‘ the Princess *Felician*. Do you take Care then to
‘ summons the Council, where I will bring *Florina*,
‘ in order to engage her to the Execution of this
‘ Design.’

When the Council was met, *Mauritiana* said, ‘ Sis-
‘ ters, a few Days ago we gave to the Princess
‘ *Florina* the Prize which was due to her Virtue; I
‘ believe she being above all Difficulties that ill
‘ Fortune could throw in her Way, may also deliver
‘ *Felician*. I should take the utmost Pleasure in it.’

132 *The Tales of the FAIRIES:*

‘ her restor’d to the Throne ; I have desir’d it a long Time, in order for me to retire to my own, which I cannot do till she is here : If the Princess *Florina* pleases, she may do it all. Are you of my Opinion, Sisters, that we should ask her to come hither, and propose the Thing to her ? Join your Request to mine, I beseech you, and we shall obtain this noble Enterprize, that is, to set at Liberty a great unfortunate exiled Princess, and who cannot be deliver’d but by some happy Mortal.’

When the Queen had done speaking, the Assembly remain’d a while without an Answer. All the Fairies were perplex’d to penetrate what Views the Queen could have in this prodigious Change of hers : The Fairies plainly saw her Jealousy against *Florina* was not yet extinguisht, but they could not comprehend why *Mauritiana* should engage *Florina* afresh in an Affair, which would conduce to so much an unhappier End than the others, and to run the Hazard of losing a Crown which had cost her so dear.

When a Fairy of *Mauritiana*’s Party broke Silence, and said, ‘ That if *Florina* excus’d herself, she should judge it proper to compel her ; that Force was just where fair Means could not persuade, and particularly upon this Occasion.’ ‘ What you advance, said *Mauritiana*, is unjust ; the Princess like us, is at Liberty to accept or refuse what I propose. If the Fairies had been permitted to have undertaken this Design, the Queen’s Return had been effected long ago ; but since a Mortal only can accomplish it, where is there one better to be found than *Florina* ? and therefore it is to her we must make this Request.’

The sage Fairy Counsellor answer’d, It was true, that *Florina* had all the Qualifications and Dispositions necessary to succeed in so great a Design : But with all these rare Qualities she had certain Dangers to undergo, where she would stand in need

need of extraordinary Assistance to support and preserve her. The Queen said, She would not propose that, but give the Princess leave to take what Helps she could procure from the Fairies, who were left to their own Inclinations as to that Point.

Hereupon two of the principal Fairies were sent to compliment her in the Name of the rest. *Florina* being come, *Mauritiana* sent other Fairies to her, to receive her; and all together conducted her to the Queen, who seated her next herself upon the same Floor on which her Throne was placed. When *Florina* had taken her Seat, *Mauritiana* spoke thus: 'The Conduct which you have shewn, incomparable Princess, in the Conquest of the Imperial Rose, persuades us that you are capable of executing the greatest Designs, and that there were no Difficulties which could bound the Course of those Things you have undertaken. Here is another considerable Opportunity offers itself of signalizing your heroick Virtue. Our great Queen *Felicianna* hath been exiled some Time in the wonderful Labyrinth, from whence she cannot return, but by a Mortal like yourself. Fair Princess, give Liberty to this dear Queen: Enter into the Labyrinth, and restore her to us: All the Fairies with me beseech it of you, and entreat you with the strongest Instances of Affection. See here, my Princess a Way of gaining more Glory than in the Conquest you have already made: 'Tis a double Crown which Heaven offers you, and I fancy that your generous Heart cannot refuse it.'

Florina listen'd to the Queen with great Attention, and thus reply'd: 'Madam, the Honour which you propose to me of finding out *Felicianna* the Queen, and obliging all the Fairies, would make me undertake any Thing: But, Madam, this Deliverance is not reserv'd for a poor Mortal like me. If I have gather'd the Imperial Rose, that Action was to be done by every body that would undertake it, and follow the Advice of *Rationina*.'

134 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

‘Tis not the same Thing here, in relation to the Queen; that is a Favour which cannot be granted but to a Person whom Heaven has chosen for that Purpose: So I beg of you, Madam, to dispense with me.’

Then the Queen attempted to persuade her that the Celestial Powers had destin’d her to be the Deliverer of that Queen; and that she could not oppose their Wills without drawing on her self the Anger of Heaven. While *Mauritiana* was making this pertinent Reply. *Florina* attentively watched all the Fairies, one after another, to penetrate their Sentiments, and to judge from them what she ought to do. She thought she saw in the Eyes of the sage Fairy Adviser, that she was pleased to have her accept the Thing: But for fear of being deceiv’d, she ask’d Time to answer; which was granted.

The Council rising, *Florina* was carried back to her Apartment by the Fairies, who solicited her to go the Queen. When *Florina* was return’d to her Chamber, *Mauritiana* lock’d herself up in her own, to think with Pleasure on the new Snare she had laid for her: She secretly flatter’d her self, that *Florina* must perish by the Multiplicity of Dangers she would meet withal in the Labyrinth; her only Fear was, that she would not accept of the Commission.

Prince *Probus* being inform’d of the Proposal which the Queen his Mother had made to *Florina*, went to find out the Fairy Counsellor, to advise beforehand with her, what Way would be the best for *Florina* to execute the Project with Success. He found her alone on the Bank of the Canal in the Garden, who was contriving, as well as himself, what powerful Succours they could give her. As soon as the Fairy saw the Prince, she went up to him; ‘What is the Occasion of your Mirth, Prince? said she: *Florina* has had a Proposal to go fetch back Queen *Felician* from the Labyrinth: What good Fortune will

' will it be to you, upon this Occasion, if you love the Princess?'

' If you doubt it, sage Fairy, *answer'd the Prince*, you do me Injustice: For ———' ' I shall be persuaded, *answered the Fairy*, if you will serve *Florina* to the Prejudice of the Queen your Mother.' ' I should perhaps, *said the Prince*, abandon the Princess, if there was Justice in my Mother's Resentments: But as *Florina* is unjustly persecuted, tho' I had no Passion for her, I would do all I design to do.' ' What I have to say to you, my Prince, *reply'd the Fairy*, is what I always believ'd of you, that you would join with me to engage *Florina* to accept of the Proposal offer'd. I am persuaded it will be more for your Advantage to deliver *Felliciana*; and that you will find by this, new Means of forming the Bands of an eternal Friendship.'

As *Florina* had not yet accepted the Propositions made to her, they went to her together, to know what her last Sentiments were. Being enter'd into her Chamber, they found the Fairy her good Friend with her, who had solicited her to restore *Felliciana*. That Fairy seeing them enter in, said, ' Come and persuade the Princess: She doubts of the Power she has, and seems undetermined to accept the Glory of going to deliver the exiled Queen.'

' Madam, *said the Prince*, I can scarce believe that you refuse to be the worthy Deliverer of a Queen so much desired.' ' How, Prince! *reply'd Florina*; would you, who know my Weakness, and the Fatigues I underwent to gather the Imperial Rose, would you too engage me in a fresh Design, which is still more difficult, and where undoubtedly I shall perish.' ' Is it possible, my Princess, *said the Fairy Counsellor*, that you can be so hard-hearted to refuse Prince *Probus*, who hath been so zealous for your Service, and who desires with us the Deliverance of that Queen? Can your Soul have the Weakness to believe that so great a Prince can

138 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

young Shepherdes come out, cloathed in a green Stuff, lin'd with white. She had a Crook in her Hand, and a Straw Hat upon her Head to shade her from the Sun-Beams. When they approached nearer, *Florina* was amazed to find in so much Simplicity an Air and Manner the most obliging and most graceful in the World. ' May Heaven grant ' you your Wishes, fair Shepherdes, *said Florina*, ' and blest you with all Happiness.' ' I wish you ' the same, fair Princess, *said the Shepherdes*, and ' that Heaven would conduct you safely to the End ' of your Desires.' ' I am obliged to you, my Shepherdes, for the Good you wish me. But, alas! ' *continued she*, without the Favour of Heaven, I can't ' accomplish what I have undertaken.' ' If your ' Designs are just, and you have a strong Faith and ' Confidence, *said the Shepherdes*, you will not be ' disappointed, but notwithstanding all the Hazards ' and Difficulties arrive at the End of what you ' propose. But, my Princess, you appear weary: ' Come into my Cottage, and rest you; I can perhaps tell you of something that will not be useless.' *Florina* accepted her Offer. And when she was enter'd, the Shepherdes seated her; and after some Civilities said, ' The Concern I have for ' you, my fair Princess, makes me take the Liberty ' to ask you the Reasons that brought you into this ' Solitude, which is almost unknown to Mortals.' ' Most lovely Shepherdes, *reply'd the Princess*, I am ' engag'd by the Queen *Mauritania* to come and ' find out the Queen *Felician*, to bring her back ' from Exile.' ' I was satisfy'd that it was your ' Design, *said the Shepherdes*, as soon as I saw you. ' Ah, Princess! what Glory and Happiness has ' Heaven prepared for you, if you can restore this ' great Queen? According to the Decree of the ' supream Beings, this Deliverance is reserv'd for ' none but one happy Mortal, and that appears to ' be you. Don't be discourag'd, my Princess, in all ' the Dangers you shall undergo; for you will surmount

' mount them. Pardon me, that the Transports o.
' Joy you see in me, proceed from an Excess of.
' Tenderness which I have for that dear Queen
' you go in quest of.' Then *Florina* ask'd, whether
the Dangers to be met with in that Labyrinth, were
not too difficult to be overcome. ' No, my Prin-
' cess, said the *Shepherdes*; they become easy when
' the Streugth of Resolution attacks them. Then
Florina ask'd why the Queen *Felician*a was banish'd.
' That, answer'd the *Shepherdes*, is a long Story to
' relate.'

' But to instruct you, continu'd she, I must tell you,
' my Princess, that when the Queen *Felician*a reign-
' ed, every Thing was perfectly quiet upon our Earth.
' My Sisters and I were then her dearest Favourites;
' and it was thro' our Care that Mortals received
' that sweet Felicity. One of my Sisters was call'd
' *Innocence*, the other *Fidelity*, and I am called *Sim-
' plicity*. *Innocence* was she that preserved Mankind
' against covetous and disorderly Desires, which rob-
' bed them of the Sweetness and Pleasures of a real
' Security. *Fidelity* inspired them with Friendship,
' Credit, and inviolable Trust one towards the
' other: And I relieved them when they fell into
' such Weaknesses, as to believe they had need of
' a great many different Things to make them
' happy. This Order was so well fix'd, that we
' needed only to appear before the People, where
' the Queen sent us to surpress the one, and ani-
' mate the other. The People expressed such Re-
' spect and Veneration for us, that they fancied they
' could not live without us. That Time, my Prin-
' cess, was yet happy, before this extraordinary
' Adventure which I am going to tell you.

' There was a handsome young Fellow in our
' Neighbourhood, call'd *Suspicion*: He was the Son
' of *Jealousy*, but had not so much ill Nature as she.
' Their Complaisance and Civility gave 'em an easy
' Admission into the best Families, and among the
' rest they came into ours. *Pisonida*, or *Fid*

140 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

' pleas'd this young Son of *Zelopia*, or *Jealousy*, called
 ' *Hypopsites*, or *Suspicion*, so that he became so amo-
 ' rous, he had no longer Power to dissemble his
 ' Passion. He express'd himself in such a lively
 ' and respectful Manner, that tho' my Sister was no
 ' ways inclin'd to hearken to him, yet she enter-
 ' tain'd a secret Compassion for him ; tho' at the
 ' same Time she gave him severe Answers to every
 ' Thing he said, which perhaps was capable of shock-
 ' ing the Constancy of the most amorous and most
 ' infatuated Man in the World, However, he
 ' would not be repuls'd, but continued his Addres-
 ' ses to my Sister, in giving her fresh Proofs every
 ' Day of his Constancy. This engag'd *Pisonida* to
 ' give some Attention. But after examining the
 ' Thing, she saw plainly that if she married *Hy-*
 ' *popstes*, she would not only bring her self into
 ' great Misfortunes, but expose her self again to
 ' all the Violences of *Zelopia* his Mother ; which
 ' made her resolve to discard *Hypopsites*. One Day
 ' as he was making his Complaints to my Sister,
 ' she answer'd, That she would not marry him ;
 ' that all he could do would be in vain ; and there-
 ' fore desired him to retire. *Hypopsites*, who was
 ' very amorous, answer'd, That if what she said
 ' was serious, he should die with Despair. As they
 ' talked after this usual way of Lovers, *Pisonida* let
 ' him know, that he ought to be satisfy'd with what
 ' she said to him, for that they were her real Sen-
 ' timents. *Hypopsites* retired, and went away as
 ' usual. My Sister finding her self fatigued with
 ' his Addresses, begg'd the Queen to send her some
 ' Distance off, where *Hypopsites* could not come to
 ' her. *Felician*a sent my Sister whither she desir'd to
 ' go ; and the young Man finding himself depriv'd
 ' of her Sight, went to find out the Queen, and to
 ' entreat her to be favourable to him. He inform'd
 ' her of the Purity of his Flame, and the Sincerity
 ' of his Heart, with all he had done to engage my
 ' Sister to answer his Desires, and begg'd that
 ' she

the Queen would force *Pisonida* to accept his Heart, and make him happy, *Felician* answer'd, That all our Actions ought to be just, and without Force; that *Pisonida* might have as much natural Aversion to him, as he had Love for her; that he might easily know that by her Refusal; and that it would be Injustice in her to oblige her to accept of an Heart that was not agreeable to her.

As this young Man was of a violent Disposition, this Answer drove him to Despair; and hearkening to nothing but his Rage, he flew from the Queen, and run up to the Top of a Rock, from whence he threw him self into the tempestuous Sea of Desires, where he extinguish'd his Life and Passion. The Noise of his Death being spread abroad, his Mother, who was no less violent than himself, became outrageous, and could breath nothing but the subtle Poison of Revenge. *Zelopia* went to *Mauritiana* to engage her in her Interest, and to consult with her about proper Means to destroy her Enemies, and those of her Son.

Mauritiana receiv'd this afflicted Mother, and judg'd it proper to do all they could to oblige the People to carry their Complaints to the supreme Intelligences, and tell them that *Felician* and *Pisonida* had kill'd *Hypopsites* their intimate Friend, from whom they had received considerable Services; which succeeded compleatly. The Covetous, the Ambitious, and the Revengeful, all sign'd the Petition. The supream Intelligences receiv'd it; and to be assured of the Truth, took *Mauritiana* into their Council; which was so secretly transacted, that *Felician* was not apprized of the Proceeding. These Informations were convey'd to the supreme Intelligences: And what Care soever was taken to make the Queen and my Sister appear Criminals, the Intelligences, who cannot be deceiv'd, knew the Innocence

142 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

‘ the Persons accused and the Characters of the Accusers.

‘ The Intelligences provok’d with the Proceeding of the Accusers, and being willing to punish them, agreed upon the Method together to do it with an equitable Severity ; when one of them said, That the best Way to punish these ungrateful Wretches, who, after so many Favours receiv’d from their Queen and my Sister, had the Rashness to accuse them unjustly, was, in her Opinion, to agree to what they ask’d, of sending the Queen and my Sister into the wonderful Labyrinth, and giving *Mauritiana* to them for their Governor. She added, that Felicity was an inseparable Companion to *Felici-ana* ; and that where *Felici-ana* was not, Trouble, Inconstancy, and Disorder should always reign, by which Means they should become the Authors of their own Misfortunes. This was agreed to by all the Intelligences. The Queen and my Sister were sent into the wonderful Labyrinth, to remain there till a Mortal was found who should force an Entrance, and surmount all Difficulties to deliver that Queen ; till when, *Mauritiana* should govern in her stead.

‘ The Queen and my Sister obey’d this Decree, and went to the Labyrinth, where they are. *Felici-ana* took my Sister *Achakia*, or *Innocence*, along with her, and left me with the Care of her Interest here. I have chosen this Retreat ; and my greatest Diversion is in looking after these Flocks you see.”

When the Shepherdess had done speaking *Florina* said, ‘ What you have told me, so much increases the Desire I have of delivering *Felici-ana*, that I cannot think of living without that Satisfaction ; and it will be so great a Pleasure to me, that I shall despise all Dangers that may threaten my Life.”

The Shepherdes's Joy was inconceivable to see *Florina* in these Sentiments. She presented the Princess with a Collation of the best of every Thing; and then *Florina* pursued her Journey. *Simpliciana* attended her some Time; and in leaving her, observ'd to her, that at a Distance thence there was a great Tuft of Trees, which serv'd as an Ornament at the Entrance into the Tabyrinth. The Princess continued her March, and arriv'd at the Labyrinth; which had at its Entrance two large Cedars, which being interwoven, form'd by their Branches a kind of grand Portico, where she enter'd, and continu'd her Rout by a little Path-way, which brought her into a large Opening that divided itself into a great many Roads.

The Princess remain'd some time in that Place, without being able to guess which Way she ought to take; and as she was in this Perplexity, there luckily appear'd two Women; one whereof was clothed in White so shining, that it blinded her, and the other was not less beautiful, being covered with a Mantle of fine Sky-colour'd Blue. These Ladies carrying a majestick Air, made her think they were of a distinguishing Rank. 'What seek you?' said the Ladies to *Florina*, coming up to her. 'The entire Desire of delivering the Queen *Feliciana* is what has brought me here, said *Florina*, and I am much perplex'd: I would know if I have not mistaken my Road, and which of these I ought to follow.' 'If you would find that good Queen,' answer'd the Ladies, take the Road which is on your Right-hand: It will perhaps appear troublesome; but 'tis the surest. Recollect your self, fair Princess, lest you return back again; for in this Place the Ground changes continually, and the Ways you think you ought to go in, are no other than what will lead you into frightful Precipices.' *Florina* desired to know to whom she was indebted for such good Advice. 'I am call'd *Pisonida*,' said *Fidelity*, said she that spoke, and she there *Arba*

144 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

Innocence. ‘What Pleasure is it to me, said Florina, to meet with you, after having seen *Simpliciana* the Shepherdess! What have I not to hope for in my Journey, since I have the Happiness to meet the two Favourites of that good Queen which I am in search after? But to whom am I indebted for this fortunate Meeting?’ ‘Tis to our Sister *Simpliciana*, reply’d they, who told us you were in the Labyrinth, and engaged us to come and deliver you out of that Perplexity you was in, about the Choice of which Road you ought to take. But as soon as we have inform’d you, we must go and tell the Queen you are in search of her. Doubt not, fair Princess, continu’d they, but she will favour you: Only persevere, and we shall have the Happiness to see you again at her Palace, when you have accomplish’d what you ought to do.’

Pisonida and her Sister being gone, *Florina* took the Road she came to shew her. It was covered with slippery Stones, which made her ready to fall every Step she took. The Way was surrounded with nothing but barren Ground, which only produced Thistles and Briars, and cou’d not be follow’d, but by going continually up Hill, or down Hill. *Florina* some Time after finding herself tiring, and in present want of something to support her, was oblig’d to sit down on a Rock. But what Surprise was she in, when she saw she had lost the Provisions which were given her! and what Sadness seized her, to see herself in a Desert without having any Thing to eat, and without Hopes to find any? As she was making these sad Reflexions, there came to her a Woman cloathed in Rags, with a melancholy Countenance, follow’d gently by another who look’d more lively and easy, but very negligent in her Dress. ‘Who are you, said Florina? If Inhabitants of this Place, pray give me something to eat.’ ‘I am call’d *Anachira*, or Poverty, said the first; I have nothing to give you: But here’s my Daughter *Pisonida*,
Pisonida,

'*lopona*, or *Industry*, she can assist you.' *Philopona* had no sooner heard her Mother speak, but she went to find some Relief for the Princess. She brought her some wild Fruits, which *Florina* eat with the same Appetite as those presented to her by *Ergonides*. When the Princess had refresh'd herself a little, she continued the Road, and *Philopona* offer'd her his Company, which was a great Assistance to her, by bringing *Florina* from Time to Time something to eat.

Florina being advanced into the Desert, ask'd *Philopona* if it was yet very far to the Place where *Feliciana* was. He answer'd, the Way was sometimes shorter, and sometimes longer, according to the Changes that happen'd in passing over the Land. *Florina* then made sensible Reflections on the Condition she was in. The Loss of her Food was one of the strongest; and notwithstanding all the Care of *Philopona*, she was not contented. During that Time there came a Man to her call'd *Grilison*, or *Discontent*, who follow'd her, endeavouring to persuade her by many forcible Reasons, that she deserved all the Trouble she met with. 'Was not you, said he, happy enough in the Fairy Palace, after having escap'd so many Dangers in the Conquest you gain'd, but you must rashly and inconsiderately embark your self upon a new Design? Where are now your Friends, on whom you depended, and the great Assistance they would give you? The Prince and the rest are diverting themselves at Court without thinking of you; and had it not been for *Philopona*, you had not got so far.' *Florina* was vex'd to have this Man continually teasing her: She dismiss'd him several Times; but he still return'd. *Philopona* seeing that this Fellow was insupportable to her, endeavour'd all the Ways he could to comfort her. The poor Princess was almost disconsolate with his Conversation, which gave her more Trouble than all she had undergone in her Journey. There came happily, to her Relief another

146 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

with a Spade in his Hand, which she knew to be *Ergonides*. *Florina* presently run to him, to receive her. ' You come in the Nick of Time, *said she*, for ' I have urgent Occasion for your Assistance : Give ' me my dear *Agatonphisa* again ; and tell me, I beseech you, why he left me.' ' He has not left you, ' *said Ergonides* ! it was he that sent me hither to ' serve you. But, my Princess, what do you do ' with that Man that I see follows you, who is fitter to drive you to Despair by his Talk, than comfort you ? ' ' What you say is true. *said the Princess* : He follows me against my Will. He is so insupportable, and wearies me so much, that I scarce know where I am : I have discarded him, ' yet he follows me.' ' I'll discharge him from ' you, *said Ergonides* : ' Who took his Spade, and striking him on the Back, the Man fled quickly, and staid not to complain. Then *Ergonides* dug up with his Spade a large Square of Earth, whereon he sow'd Seeds which he carried about him, and from thence presented to the Princess most delicious Fruits. Then brought a fair Nymph, called *Hypomona*, or *Patience*, to bear her Company, and afterwards took his Leave.

Although *Ergonides* came to the Relief of *Florina*, *Philopona* did not leave her. He lov'd the Princess so, that he continually found out new Ways to be useful to her. He assisted *Florina* all Day to cultivate that little Earth which *Ergonides* had prepared for her, and which produced every Thing she wanted. *Hypomona* so compos'd the Princess's Temper, and diverted her, that she liv'd with the same Pleasure as if she had been in the Fairy Court : She could not fancy ever to have been more easy and happy, than she found her self in that Solitude. One Thing that perplex'd her was, that her Abode or Residence there wou'd delay her Arrival at *Isisiana's* Palace to deliver that Queen. She plac'd her Confidence in *Hypomona*, who told her she might be easy in that Matter ; for the forwarding

of her Journey did not consist in being always upon the March, but in making a good Use of all the Troubles and Disappointments they met with; that Heaven caused frequent Changes to arise, which brought us nearer to the Palace of *Feliciana*; and that that was the true Way of finding out that Queen. *Florina* was so satisfied with what *Hypomona* told her, that she thought of nothing farther than of cultivating her Garden, and the delightful Solitude wherein she was placed. While she was exercised in the dressing of the Garden, she walked all around, sometimes alone, but most frequently with her two Companions. On Day, as they were mounted on a Rock, from whence they discover'd a large Country, *Florina* was charm'd with the Place, and particularly the Beauty of the Palace, which was in Sight of them; therefore ask'd *Hypomona* what that Palace was which appear'd so beautiful. She answer'd, that it was *Feliciana's* Palace, and the Place whither she was to go. 'Well, my Princess, continued she, you see that you seem to be near, and not so far off as you thought of: But 'tis here that you ought to be arm'd with fresh Constancy, and the strongest Resolution. Don't flatter your self, my Princess, there is yet a great deal of Trouble and Pains to be taken before you arrive at that Palace: But when you have conquer'd all Difficulties, you shall enter into that Abode, and rejoice with the utmost Satisfaction, to see *Feliciana* in all the Brightness of her Glory.'

Florina hearken'd with great Pleasure to all that *Hypomona* said to her, and found it as a healing Balm to refresh her wearied Senses. During this Time, all the Princess's Steps tended towards the Rock; and all the Time she went forward, she seem'd still to approach nearer to the Palace of *Feliciana*, or that it came nearer to her.

One Day, as she was contemplating on the End of her Desires, she saw an agreeable young Man clothed in purple Velvet, come towards her.

148 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

Florina was surpriz'd to see that young Man in those solitary Places. He said to her as he came nearer, 'Madam, you are admiring the Beauty of *Felician's* Palace.' 'Tis true, *said Florina*; and the Desire of getting thither is what entirely employs my Thoughts.' 'That is a glorious Design, Madam,' *said the young Man*, and the Way to arrive at true Happiness. It is a long Time since I propos'd to go thither; but 'tis what I cannot do alone, till I find some body that has the same Inclination with my self. I have met with several, *said he*, who were very impatient to get thither, and who promis'd me the finest Things in the World; but they were repuls'd at the first Troubles we met with, and quitted me. This is the Cause, Madam, why I am not yet at the Palace of *Felician*, and that I wander in these Places, seeking always for some body who hath the same Design as I have. If you will go find out the Queen *Felician*, and take me for your Companion, I promise you, let what will happen, not to forsake you.'

Florina believing this young Man, who had spoken to her, to be *Psiphismates*, or *Good-Opportunity*, thought he might not be useless to her; hearing him speak in such advantageous Terms, she testified to him, that she embraced the Offers he made of partaking the Fatigues of the Journey together, on Condition that he would not leave her. 'It was not I, *said Psiphismates*, who fail'd those I accompanied, but it was those who left me.' And in saying that, he sat himself down by the Princess upon the Rock where she was, and entertain'd her with the Methods how they might arrive at that happy Palace.

Some Time after there came to them a Man of an odd, uneasy, violent Countenance, whose Eyes threaten'd Revenge, as if he would sentence the most innocent Actions. In short, he no sooner saw the Princess and *Psiphismates*, but he believed them to be guilty of some criminal Intrigue, and without informing

informing himself of the Truth of the Thing, or the Subject of their Conversation; he seiz'd them as Criminals. This Man was call'd *Zilopssides*, or *False-Zeal*; and as he conducted the Princess and *Psiophismates*, they met in the Road a Woman of an ill Phiz, who ask'd *Zilopssides* who the Prisoners were he had seiz'd, and what they had done. *Zilopssides* answer'd, ' I know not; but I found them in the ' Desert together, and am persuaded they are guilty of some Crimes, and therefore I carry them away.' 'Tiswell done, said the Woman, who called herself *Sycophanta*, or *Calumny*, carry them before *Agnoisia*, or *Ignorance*, and she will punish them. I'll meet you there, if you will accuse them.' In saying this, *Calumny* met with two Women, Friends of hers, called *Craft* and *Treachery*, who, joining themselves, made a strong League.

Agnoisia was then in a large Hall, where she gave Audience to the *Pleaders*, being seated on a rich Tribunal, attended with *Delay*, *Obstinacy*, *Prejudice*, and *Envy*, her Counsellors. *Calumny* presented *Florina* and *Psiophismates*, saying that they were Criminals who had been in solitary Places, and undress'd, holding a secret Correspondence together, in contempt of the Laws of *Modesty* and *Decency*; that she thought herself oblig'd to bring them to Justice; and that if the Tribunal of *Agnoisia* did not make a publick Example of them, it would be a means to countenance Vice, and be an Introduction to all Mischief. *Craft* and *Treachery* were of the same Opinion, and agreed with *Calumny*, saying, that the Crimes with which she had accused each of 'em, merited without Contradiction to be severely sentenc'd. *Zilopssides* also spoke in his Turn, and said, that what *Calumny*, *Craft*, and *Treachery* had advanc'd, was just and true.

Agnoisia, after having heard the Accusations, rose from her Seat, and joined in the Opinions already deliver'd; and as they were going to pass a rigorous Sentence upon them, *Psiophismates* seeing that

150 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

they were going to condemn both himself and *Florina* without being heard, rais'd his Voice, and begged leave to make his Defence ; which was granted. *Psephismates* said, As he was always wandering, he had met passing thro' the Desarts of the wonderful Labyrinth that Lady whom they accused along with him, who was alone upon one of the Mountains of that Desert : That his Curiosity had carried him so far as to approach her, and ask the Reason which brought her there, and what she regarded with so much Attention ; to which she answer'd, That she had a strong Inclination to see and deliver *Felician* ; that she admired her Palace, which appeared of wonderful Beauty ; and that she had a Desire to reach thither, but that it seem'd impossible : That since it had been a long Time since he himself had attempted the same Design, he sat himself down by the Lady, to consult and discourse with her on the Method of attaining to that Palace : That during the Time they were in this serious Conversation, *Zitopstides* perceiving them, came up to them, and seiz'd, and brought them to this Audience : That the Lady and he were innocent of the Crimes of which they were accused : That it was not sufficient for their Enemies to say they were criminal, but they ought to prove it : And that their Accusers not having done what they were obliged, the Lady and himself demanded to be enlarged and sent away, as having been unjustly detain'd.

Agnoisa conferring afresh with her Counsellors. *Envy* and *Obstinacy* were of Opinion, without regard to the Reasons given by *Psephismates*, that *Florina* and he ought to be condemned ; but *Delay* and *Prejudice* were of the contrary Side, and for having *Agnoisa* make an Order, that the Parties accused should remain Prisoners, and that Judgment should be deferr'd till *Calumny* and the others should prove the Crimes laid to their Charge.

They

They stripp'd *Florina* and *Psephismates* of what was valuable about them; took the Ring which the Prince had given to *Florina*, loaded her with Chains, and led her into a long frightful subterranean Dungeon, where they tied 'em both, one opposite to the other. However, this was some Consolation to *Florina*, under her Misfortune, that she could converse with *Psephismates*. *Calumny* finding her self oblig'd to get Witnesses to prove her Accusation, ask'd *Zilopsides* if he could help her to any-
 ' No, said he, I know nothing further of the Matter, but that I found them together in the Desert.' ' But, said *Calumny*, you see that won't do.' And in that Moment enter'd *Exapenta*, or *Fraud*, who came to tell them of a Turn she had to do; and as she was proceeding to relate it, *Calumny* answer'd, ' We have something else to do, than to hearken to you. I have accused two Persons of Crimes, and the Tribunal of *Agnoisa* will have it, that I should prove what I have said: Now I foresee that it is impossible for me to make it out, and I shall forfeit the Confidence they have of what I have already said.' ' I know what that is, said *Exapenta*: I can do you a Piece of Service; and I promise you I'll do all I can.'

Calumny and *False-Zeal* were charm'd with the Promises of *Fraud*; and as they knew her, they flatter'd themselves with Satisfaction. *Exapenta*, with a sorrowful Air of Affliction, coming into the Prison where *Florina* was, and approaching her, said, ' My Princess, I never was sensible of more Grief than I feel now, to see you in this deplorable Condition. I know you are innocent of the Crimes laid to your Charge, and that it is nothing but the malicious Contrivance of *Calumny*: But comfort your self, for Heaven will not permit People to be false enough to swear against you. Be assur'd that your Accusers cannot take away your Lives; you are kept here only under the Pretence of proving from one Day to another what they have

152 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

‘ to say against you, hoping that the Rigour of
 ‘ your Prison will kill you. My Princess, you
 ‘ know not the inviolable Laws of this Place,
 ‘ which free all Criminals in Custody as soon as
 ‘ they shall confess the Crimes they stand accused
 ‘ of, provided it be before their Accusers have
 ‘ proved them. This is the only way of ending
 ‘ the Affair. The Time is short, my dear Princess;
 ‘ break your own Chains: I tell you what I would
 ‘ do, were I under the same Misfortune as you
 ‘ are.’

Florina believed what *Fraud* said to her, and so far, that she was inclined to make such a Confession, when *Psephismates*, who had heard all, said, ‘ Take care, my Princess, of doing what that Deceiver advises; ’tis a Snare laid for our Destruction. We are innocent, Princess, of the Crimes we are accused of: Heaven will take care to justify us. Let us not despair then, and make a false Confession, to deliver our selves.’ This Discourse astonish’d *Exapenta*; so that she retired, and went to find out *Calumny* and *False-Zeal*, to acquaint them with the Success of her Negotiation. She said, That she had persuaded the Lady to confess, but that the young Man who was in Prison had in a Moment undone all; that while she was advising the Lady, she did not perceive any Concern of Mistrust upon her; therefore they must find out Ways to stop the young Fellow’s Mouth, and try another Way to gain her.

This News put the Accusers into an ill Humour. They went to consult with *Obstinacy* and *Envy*, and repeated to them what *Exapenta* had declared, and ask’d what they might do to preserve their Reputation. They order *Homotilla*, or *Cruelty*, to go into the Prison, and force *Psephismates* by all manner of Torments to confess his Crimes; which was readily executed, after so violent a Manner, that the poor *Psephismates* lay upon the Rack with the last Tokens of Life in him. The Princess, who was

an Eye-Witness of all this Cruelty, had not surviv'd it, if *Hypomene* had not supported and encourag'd her, saying, That it was in vain to afflict her self; for that the best Temper she could shew, was her Readiness to suffer, and to look with Tranquility on the different Turns of good and ill Fortune: that it was common to see the one succeed the other, and that she might from thence hope that hers would change.

In a moment after enter'd two very grave Women, who going towards *Psiphismates*, *Florina* ask'd them who they were, and begg'd their Assistance. 'I am call'd *Isatia*, or *Constancy*, said the first; and my Name is *Diagina*, or *Resolution*, said the other. He is our Friend, and we are come to serve him.' Presently *Isatia* embraced *Psiphismates*, and rais'd him from the Ground where he was laid, and then *Diagina* took out some Liquors which she carried, that restored him. *Florina* seeing *Psiphismates* recovered, forgot all her former Misfortunes, and while she was acknowledging her Gratitude to the Ladies, she perceiv'd a Light enter the Prison, which gave her fresh Terror, believing there were some new Mischiefs approaching: But how great was her Surprise, when she saw Prince *Probus* and two Ladies! to whom at some Distance she cry'd out, 'Ah Prince! how opportunely you come to deliver me out of this Condition! Who inform'd you of the need I had of you?' 'Twas that fair Lady you see there, who told me of the Misfortunes you were under, said *Probus*, shewing her one of the Ladies that attended him. Her Name is *Hallitia*, or *Truth*, and she that is with her is *Dicayosina*, or *Justification*.' *Florina* acknowledg'd her Obligations to them for such a Piece of Service; and could not help gazing particularly on *Hallitia*, who was so fair and bright, that the Rays darting from her Eyes enlighten'd the whole Prison.

After that, *Dicayosina* approaching *Florina*, touch'd the Irons with which she was fetter'd, and they fe

154 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

to Dust, so that the Princess was at Liberty. *Dicayosina* did the same to *Pfipbismates*; and the two Prisoners not knowing how to make Returns for such signal Favours, were going to begin their Compliments to their Deliverers, when the Prince said, 'Let us finish what we are about.' And taking the Princess by the Hand, they all went out of Prison together.

As soon as *Agnoisa*, *Calumny*, and the other Persecutors of the Princess and *Pfipbismates* saw *Hallisia* and *Dicayosina*, they fled, and hid themselves. The Prince pursued, and made them restore the Ring they had taken from *Florina*; and then conducted the Princess into a Plain, where he shew'd her the Road she ought to follow. 'Then will you leave me again, my Prince, said *Florina*?' 'I shall not be long absent, answer'd he; and you have your Ring again, to inform me when you want me. *Pfipbismates* shall be left with you, who will be a good Guide: You may put your Trust in him; he is a faithful Friend.' The Prince being retir'd, *Florina* continued in her Journey with *Pfipbismates*.

Some Time after, *Florina* and her Comrade arriv'd in a Valley, where there was a thick Grove, which appear'd very agreeable to the Princess; and as she was much fatigu'd, she was desirous to go and rest her self there. She imparted her Design to *Pfipbismates*, who would not agree to it; but in Complaisance to her, he enter'd into the Grove; and the Princess chusing out a convenient Place to sit down, he sat by her. They entertain'd each other a long Time with the Dangers they had escap'd, and the Favour of Heaven in their Deliverances, till *Florina* insensibly dropp'd asleep from the soft Zephyrs of the Grove; and *Pfipbismates* seeing her asleep, would have willingly kept himself awake, but in spite of all his Care, he fell asleep too. *Florina* in this Sleepiness fancy'd she was on the slippery Brink or Edge of a frightful Precipice; and this Fear was so violent, that she waked, and found she was not deceived,

ceived, and that her Dream was but too true : For she had no sooner open'd her Eyes, but she saw her self on the Brink of a Precipice, where, do what she could, she was not able to get back. The poor Princess called several Times *Pythbismates* to her Assistance, but in vain; he slept so sound, that he heard not. At last the Princess, finding her self going to fall, took the Ring out of her Bosom, and put it in her Mouth, when Prince *Probus* appear'd, who, giving her his Hand, brought her back into the Road she had quitted.

The Prince bid her keep the Road, without leaving of it; for that she saw the Consequences if she should forsake it, and then left her again. The Princess now could not think of parting with the Prince but with much Grief, finding the great want she should have of him. The Prince observing the Trouble it gave her, to comfort her, said, That he would go see the Queen *Felician*, to tell her the Design that she intended to restore her out of the Labyrinth, and to intreat her to spare her the Fatigues in the Way.

Florina pursued the Road again, and found *Pythbismates*; for which good Fortune she rejoic'd. He ask'd her how she did to recover her self from the Danger she was in. 'Twas Prince *Probus*, said she, that delivered me. He came to me as soon as I put the Ring into my Mouth, and led me into the Right Road. But tell me, said the Princess, my dear *Pythbismates*, what is the meaning that that Grove, which appears so agreeable, should be so dangerous to enter and repose in? *Pythbismates* answer'd, That the Wood or Grove was called *Amelito*, which signifies Remissness, or a yielding up to Pleasure.

As they continued talking, they met a Woman in the Road, of a majestic Port, cloath'd in a white shining Garment, who ask'd the Princess if it was she that sought the Queen *Felician*. Yes, Madam, answer'd the Princess, 'tis I who seek the Queen

156 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

' Queen, to deliver her from the Labyrinth.' ' You are the Person then whom I also am in search of,' *reply'd the Lady* : Follow me, and you shall presently have the Happiness to see her.' This Lady call'd her self *Leucotissa*, or *Candor*, and was the principal Favourite of *Felician*a. ' Our good Queen has sent me to shorten your Journey, *said she*, *addressing her self to Florina*, and I have Orders to conduct you by the nearest Way. All the Country that you see before us, *continued she*, is full of dangerous Places, where you should have pass'd, and where it would have been dreadful for you; but Prince *Probus* has intreated the Queen to dispense with it. *Achakia* and *Pisonida* have join'd their Petitions to that of the Prince; so that *Felician*a hath sent me to prevent the Trouble you would have undergone.'

A little while after they found themselves on the Borders of a Lake, encompass'd with large Trees. This Lake had in the Middle of it a small Island, wherein was the Queen's Palace. As soon as they saw the Palace, two Women enter'd into a Boat, and came to fetch them. *Florina* knew them to be *Achakia* and *Pisonida*, who stretch'd out their Hands for the Princess to come into the Boat, and to conduct her to the Queen, who attended in the Palace to receive her. As soon as *Florina* had landed on this happy Soil, she found her self transported with Joy and Pleasure. The Queen embraced her, and gave her her Hand, and conducted her into the Palace. But while the Princess was breathing the Sweets of a perfect Tranquility, the Queen gave Orders for every Thing to be ready, and soon after departed with *Florina* and the rest of her Court. In the mean Time, the Fame of *Florina*'s having found the Queen, and that they were upon the Road together in order to return, reach'd the Fairy Court. This News afflicted *Mauritiana*, who sent her Confidant to inform her of the Truth; who gave her an Account, that *Felician*a and *Florina* would presently

sently arrive. Upon which *Mauritiana* immediately got ready her Equipage, and left the Court, to return with all her Followers into the Islands.

The good Fairies, who waited impatiently the Queen and *Florina's* Return, went to meet her; and when they found her at the Palace-Gates, they set up loud Acclamations of Joy. The sage Fairy Counsellor was the first who approach'd the Queen's Chariot: Her Love and Zeal for the Queen and *Florina* made her advance before the rest. *Florina's* good Fairy follow'd; and the Fairies being arrived all together, saluted the Queen, expressing their utmost Joy for her Return, and rank'd themselves before and behind her Chariot, forming a Train worthy the Reception of their Queen.

In entering into the great Court of the Palace they heard nothing but Acclamations, and Concerts of Fairies singing the Praises of the Queen, and the Glory of *Florina*. 'Tis not difficult to tell the Sentiments of the Queen and the Fairies upon this happy Reunion. Prince *Probus* arrived soon after, and all the rest of that Day was spent in Mirth and Rejoicings.

The next Day the Queen mounted with *Florina* upon a Golden Chariot set with precious Stones, they went to the Temple of *Virtue*, where all the Fairies attended them. After the great Ceremonies of returning Thanks for the happy Return of the Queen and *Florina*, *Felician*a took a Crown of an inestimable Value, and turning to the Fairies, said, ' My dear Sisters, you know why the supreme Intelligences judg'd it proper to order me to quit my Throne, and to place me in the wonderful Labyrinth, till a Mortal should be found, whose excellent Virtue had Power to force an Entrance, and to surmount all Obstacles that should oppose the Means of discovering me. What shall we do now, my dear Sisters, to this Princess, who hath voluntarily enter'd the Labyrinth, and generously suffer'd the Fatigues of an endless Labour and Cha

158 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

‘ Chagrin till she arrived at me, and is the Cause
 ‘ that this Day I reassum’d the Throne ? Therefore
 ‘ to testify to this Princess part of the Gratitude
 ‘ due to her for the Obligations I have received, I
 ‘ believe it is proper that I crown her once more.
 ‘ She deserves it, *continued she.*’ And in saying these
 Words, the Queen placed the Crown she had in
 her Hand upon *Florina’s* Head. During which, all
 the Fairies sung Praises to the Honour of *Florina*,
 which was answer’d by a Concert of all Sorts of In-
 struments of Musick.

Prince *Probus* could not contain himself for the
 Joy he felt in seeing the Princess twice crown’d in
 the Temple of *Virtue*. She never look’d so beautiful
 as she appear’d in this last Coronation. When the
 Assembly was return’d, he went to pay a Visit to
 the Princess in her Apartment, to let her see the
 Pleasure he took in the Honours conferr’d on her.
 The Fairy Counsellor, and the other good Fairy,
 were both there.

While all these Things were in Agitation at the
 Fairy Palace, the King, *Florina’s* Father, after the
 Conquest of his Enemies, return’d to the Castle
 from whence *Florina* had been taken ; and upon his
 coming thither, his Grief was renew’d for the Loss
 of the Princess, of whom he could get no other In-
 telligence, notwithstanding all his Search, but that
 she was surrounded with a thick Mist, and in that
 Moment was lost.

The King, after this Enquiry, sent for the Magi-
 cian ; who being brought to him, he ask’d why he
 had deceived him, in assuring him that he had made
 the Castle inaccessible against any Surprize or Insult
 for the Preservation of the young Princess. ‘ The
 ‘ Princess is well, *said the Magician* : She went out
 ‘ of the Circle which I drew, and was taken away,
 ‘ which has proved to her Glory. But she will re-
 ‘ turn shortly, and with her a great Prince, to
 ‘ whom you ought to give the Princess, and accept
 ‘ him for your Son.’

Felicianna assembled her Council, where it was resolv'd, That *Florina* should be conducted to the King her Father with all the Marks of Grandure possible, not only for her Merit sake, but also to repair the Injury done her; and all the Fairies prepared to appear bright in this Expedition. During this Time, Prince *Probus* found himself overcome with Sadness for the Loss he was going to sustain in the Absence of the Princess, whom he loved tenderly, and whose Presence gave him the most charming Delights. He retired into a solitary Place, where he could not defend himself, thro' the Excess of Love and Grief, from being overwhelm'd in Tears. And as the Prince was thinking how to discover his Passion to the Princess, *Felicianna*, who was walking in the Palace Gardens, surpriz'd him in an Arbour; where, as soon as she saw him, she said laughing, 'Why, Prince, are you alone, and not ready to conduct *Florina* to her Father, that we may put an End to all her Victories? Are you, Prince, who have always given a helping Hand to that Princess in all her Dangers, the only Person now who is unactive?'

'*Florina* has no more need of my weak Assistance,' answer'd *Probus*; she enjoys with you a real Happiness. But if I could persuade my self that I could yet be serviceable —' 'You must attend the Princess in the Triumph, interrupted the Queen. The Time is now short: Leave this Solitude, and think of preparing your self to Augment the pompous Equipage with which we are going to conduct her.'

The Prince obey'd the Queen: And as Lovers always flatter themselves, he fancied that, by what the Queen said to him, she had penetrated into the Subject of his Grief; and that she would think of Ways to make him happy with the Princess. And in this he was not mistaken: The Queen saw what had invited *Probus* to give the Princess such Assistance, and the wise Fairy Counsellor had discover'd

160 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

to her the Passion that the Prince had for *Florina*; so that she improv'd it during this favourable Opportunity, urging that he ought to be rewarded for what he had done for *Florina*.

Every Thing being ready for their Departure, *Feliciana* left her Palace, and pursued her Journey, and set out in this Order: Four pompous Chariots began the March, in which were as many Concerts of Vocal Musick, who sung in Praise of *Florina*. Those Chariots were preceded and follow'd by a great Number of Fairies, who answer'd to the others by playing on various Instruments. Other Fairies again follow'd those, carrying Ensigns, whereon were painted *Florina's* Victories. Prince *Probus* follow'd these Ensigns, with a Train of most beautiful Fairies magnificently cloath'd, and crown'd with Laurels, Myrtles, and Roses. The Fairy Counsellor and Good Fair follow'd the Prince in the stately Chariots, carrying upon the richest Cushions the Princess's two Crowns. More Fairies attended the Chariots, continually repeating their Acclamations of Joy, that the Crowns were given to *Florina* to reward her Virtue. *Simpliciana*, *Achakia*, *Pisonida*, and *Leucotissa*, were in another Chariot, and made a most wonderful Harmony in singing the Victories of *Florina* in the Labyrinth. And then came *Florina* crown'd with Bays, attended by the Queen *Feliciana*: Both sat in a Chariot of Gold and Ivory, drawn by Eagles. And the whole March clos'd with a Crowd of Fairies, gloriously apparell'd.

When this pompous Assembly arrived in the Territories of the King, *Florina's* Father, the Noise spread all over; and this News reaching the Court, he went from his Palace to see what it was. In an Instant two Fairies presented themselves: The King was surpriz'd with the Beauty and Splendor of them, and ask'd them what they desired of him. The Fairies answer'd, 'Sir, the Queen *Feliciana* desires Ad-
'mission to see you, and enter into your Palace
'with

‘ with her whole Court.’ The King answer’d, That he was too highly honour’d, that so great a Queen did him the Favour of a Visit; that he would go before, and prepare every Thing for her Reception. The Fairies told him, that the Queen only desired he would stay in his Palace, where she would presently wait on him.

The King return’d into his Palace, order’d his Court to meet to receive *Felician*a; which was no sooner done, but the first Rank of the Triumph appeared in admirable Order. This Cavalcade being enter’d the Palace, rang’d themselves on both sides of the Court. The King was surpriz’d to see such Magnificence, and knew not what to think: But when he saw the Trophies of *Florina*’s Victories, and perceived the Prince who followed, he began to fancy that it was his Daughter that the Queen had brought back to his Palace. He look’d a long Time on the Prince, who rang’d himself as the others, but at a greater Distance from the Entrance into the Apartment of the Palace; and then the King recollected what the Magician had said. At last *Felician*a’s Chariot arriv’d; which when the King saw, he advanced to receive the Queen. But what Joy did he conceive, when he saw and knew *Florina* likewise there! He presented his Hand to the Queen, and she hers to *Florina*, and all three enter’d the Palace together.

*Felician*a presented *Florina* to the King her Father, saying, ‘ Sir, here is the Princess your Daughter, whom you thought lost. She has undergone great Troubles, and been expos’d to all Dangers, which have been the Means to raise her to the highest Pitch of Honour and Glory. These Crowns which you see are the Prizes of the Victories, which she hath gain’d by the Assistance of Prince *Probus*, whom I here present to you.’ The King embrac’d the Prince with the utmost Sentiments of Gratitude, and the Queen continuing her Discourse, begg’d the King to receive that Prince into

162 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*


his Alliance, and to reward him with the Princess his Daughter, whom he lov'd with a faithful and tender Passion. 'Madam, said the King, the Choice 'is glorious for my Daughter and my self, since it 'comes from you: 'Tis too little for so generous 'a Prince, to whom we owe such high Obligations. 'I have with my Daughter still more Crowns to 'present to him, and think my self too happy if he 'will do me the Honour to accept them.' The Prince express'd to the King and Queen a Share of his Acknowledgments; and *Florina* understanding that they spoke of her Marriage with the Prince, was transported with Joy. The Noise of this Marriage was soon spread every where about the Kingdom; there were universal Preparations made to celebrate it with all possible Magnificence. And afterwards, the Queen *Felliciana* retir'd with her Court into her own Dominions, and left the Prince in the Possession of his dear Princess.



T H E



T H E
HISTORY
O F T H E
Princess LEONICE.

N former Times there lived a King, who was a Pattern to all others for his great and rare Qualities. He buried the Queen his Wife when she was very young, by whom he had a Prince, who was beautiful, and his only Comfort, and besides, a Prince of extraordinary Parts. As the King was pretty well advanced in Years himself, he thought to marry him early ; and to that End, cast his Eyes on a young Princess of his Court named *Romelia*, who was a Sovereign of a Province tributary to his Crown. She was beautiful, but very ambitious and jealous ; and had a Sister whose Beauty exceeded hers, and whose sweet and complaisant Temper made her as much beloved, as her Sister's Imperiousness made her hated.

The Prince could not behold her without being affected by her Charms, and had for a long Time conceiv'd a violent Love for her ; to which *Leonice*, which was the young Princess's Name, was not insensible

164 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

sensible. They conceal'd their Passions with Care, insomuch that none of the Court perceived but *Cephisa*, a young Maid, who was very much belov'd by her Mistress. These two young Hearts tasted a perfect Happiness in their Tenderness, while they were not disturb'd. But the King having formed the Design I mention'd, sent one Day for his Son, and order'd him to prepare to marry *Romelia*. Never was Grief equal to the Prince's, who begg'd of the King not to think of marrying so soon; for that at present he had no Inclination to Marriage. The King represented to him the Beauty of the Princess, and that Princes were not altogether to follow their Inclinations; and, in short, told him, That he must think of obeying him; for that he had already spoke to *Romelia*, who, being a very powerful Princess, might create great Disturbances in the Kingdom, if he did not perform what he had promised. The Prince could not relish all these Reasons; his Love of *Leonice* render'd his Marriage with her Sister a cruel Punishment: But not daring to provoke the King by an obstinate Denial, only begg'd for Time, which the King granted him, upon condition that from that Night he should begin to make his Addresses to the Princess, and after that dismiss'd his Son; who had no sooner let him, but he ran to his dear *Leonice*, to tell her their Misfortune. What a Thunder-stroke was this to the young Princess! she was just ready to expire with Grief. But after a great many Complaints, Sighs, Tears, and Protestations to love each other for ever, they resolv'd that the Prince should seem to obey his Father, and make his Court to *Romelia*.

That Night there was a Ball at Court, and both the Princesses were dress'd very magnificently. The Prince, to execute what they had resolv'd upon, spoke to none but *Romelia*, who, believing herself already a Queen, receiv'd him with insupportable Pride; which had no Effect upon the Prince, tho' the King, who observ'd them closely, took it

very

The Princess LEONICE. 165

very ill, and told *Romelia* as much, The next Day the whole Court went a Stag-Hunting, and the Ladies, dress'd like *Amazons*, rid on horse-back. But how beautiful did *Leonice* appear in the Prince's Eyes! who was forc'd to follow her Sister. The Chace was very diverting to the Ladies; for the Stag ran a long while, and pass'd often by them: But as it was extreamly hot, the Princess was very dry, and seeing two Springs that flow'd out at the bottom of a Rock, and a pretty Brook, she went thither to quench her Thirst. The Prince follow'd her with the same Design; and having help'd her to dismount, she drank a great deal of one of those Springs, and the Prince did the same, but not of the same Water, tho' he knew not the Virtue of those Waters, one of which inspired Love, the other Hatred.

The Princess drank plentifully of that Water which created Tenderness, and felt the Effects. Then her Heart, which had never entertain'd any other Thoughts but what were ambitious, grew sensible of another Passion; she look'd on the Prince with other Eyes, he appear'd much more amiable, and she thought herself happy that he was destined for her. But at the same Time that she conceiv'd these tender Sentiments, the Prince's Aversion redoubled with so much Violence, that he had much ado to stay with her: and with these different Thoughts they return'd from the Chase.

The Prince no longer Master of himself, went to his dear *Leonice*, and would not leave her all that Day, say what she would; and the proud *Romelia* observed but too much the Regard he paid her. Then a thousand Things came into her Mind, of which she had never taken notice before, and persuaded her that they had lov'd a long Time. Then Jealousy possess'd her Heart, as well as Love; and wrack'd between these two Passions, she retired half distracted: and *Leonice*, for her part, was not much more easy. She knew that the Prince loved
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166 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

her tenderly ; but then again she fear'd the King's Authority . And the better she was acquainted with her Sister's imperious Temper, she trembled the more, lest she should perceive the Sentiments of her Lover. The Prince we may be sure enjoy'd not more Tranquillity : Love, Hate, and the Fear of displeasing the King his Father, equally tormented him. Never any three Persons pass'd a Night more Melancholy ; and yet their Misfortunes increased more the next Day.

Romelia resolv'd to know whether the Prince really lov'd *Leonice* ; and having a Closet that join'd close to her Sister's Apartment, and having given out, as soon as she got up, that she was ill, and would not be seen, went privately into this Closet, not doubting in the least but the Prince, finding that she would not stir out that Day, would make use of that happy Opportunity to see her Sister, if he certainly lov'd her. And in this Conjecture she was not at all deceived : For the Prince having been to pay her a Visit, and understanding that she was not to be seen, went directly to her Sister's Apartment ; and finding her alone, fell on his Knees, and said, ' Now, fair Princess, I have the
' Happiness to see you without Constraint : *Romelia*
' is sick, and sees no Company. How great a Plea-
' sure is it to me, *continued he, after she had made him*
' sit by her, to be able to tell you what I have en-
' dured since that fatal Moment, when you charg'd
' me to deceive my Father ! Alas ! I have not Power
' to do it : I hate *Romelia* too much, and love you
' with too great a Passion, to disguise my Senti-
' ments. Yes, my charming Princess, *said he, fall-*
' *ling on his Knees again,* you must give me leave to
' declare my Love to the King, and to beg of him
' not to oppose the Choice my Heart has made of
' you.' ' Alas ! *replied Leonice sorrowfully,* that will
' only render us the more unhappy : The King your
' Father, whatever Tenderness he may have for
' you, has his Reasons ; you know, why he prefer

' my

The Princess Leonice. 167

‘ my Sister before me ; and Policy will prevail. Besides, since the Death of my Father and Mother, I depend on her ; and how do you think she would resent so great an Affront ? No, my dear Prince, *continued Leonice*, take not so ill a Course, I conjure you ; it will only be a Means of separating us for ever.’ ‘ But what would you have me do ? *reply’d the Prince* : Would you have me marry *Romelia* ?’ ‘ I have not Power to advise you, *said the Princess* ; continue still to feed the King up with Hopes that you will obey him, and endeavour to constrain your self when near my Sister : But above all, be sure not to let her perceive that you love me.’ ‘ But what will be the End of all these Restraints ? *reply’d the Prince*.’ ‘ It will give us Time, *answer’d Leonice* ; and that is all we can hope for in our Misfortunes.’

The proud *Romelia* heard all this tender Conversation with a mortal Grief ; and not being able to bear it any longer, retir’d into her Apartment, for fear she should not be Mistress enough of her self. But, O Heavens ! what said she when she saw herself at Liberty to complain ! All the most violent Resolutions imaginable came into her Head : Steel and Poison, in her Opinion, were too gentle Punishments for their Perfidy. In short, the violent Passion she was in, make her sick indeed. But tho’ she had need of being alone to take some Rest, yet she was no sooner got to bed but she call’d her Women, and bid them go tell her Sister to come to her. A Fit of Jealousy made her desirous to see her, by that Means to prevent her entertaining the Prince any longer, who was then with her when the Message came. The young Princess went to *Romelia* ; and told her, after enquiring how she did, that the Prince hearing that she was ill, had been with her to enquire after her Health. ‘ I am very much obliged to him for his Care, *answer’d the Princess with a disdainful Smile* ; but I suppose he comforted himself with you for my Illness and

‘ Ab-

168 *The Tales of the FAIRIES:*

‘ Absence.’ *Leonice* blush’d at this Answer of her Sister’s, and made no Reply, but was so uneasy all the rest of the Day, that their Conversation was but very dull. The next Morning the King and Prince came to see *Romelia*; but the King staid not long. The Prince wish’d to follow him when he went away, but durst not; tho’ he staid a long Time alone with her so confused, that he never open’d his Lips: But the Princess, unwilling to lose so fair an Opportunity, and seeing he still continued musing, said, with Eyes inflam’d with Love and Anger, ‘ Come, confess the Truth: Does not your Heart reproach you for those Moments which the King forces you to bestow on me? The too-happy *Leonice* possesses you even while you are here with me.’ At the naming of *Leonice* the Prince recover’d himself, and said, ‘ How come you, Madam, to make me this Reproach? Am not I guilty enough to forget a Moment that I stood by you, but you must accuse me of loving *Leonice*, tho’ you know I am commanded by the King to attach myself to you?’ ‘ Can you deny that you love my Sister,’ reply’d *Romelia*, after the Conversation I heard Yesterday? Yes, perfidious Prince, continued she, in a Passion, which she could not govern, I was in a Place where I lost not one Word of all the Protestations you made never to love any but her: I was a Witness to all the tender Things you said to each other. But the ungrateful *Leonice* shall not triumph unpunish’d over me: She shall pay dear for the Pleasure of your Conquest, and answer for all the Torments I have endur’d upon the account of your Love: She shall curse the Day that she accepted of your Heart. And if I cannot make my self belov’d, I shall have the Satisfaction of revengeing my self on one who is dearer to you than your own Life.’

The Prince was so surpriz’d to find that his Passion was discover’d, that he hardly knew what to resolve: But seeing that it was in vain for him to disguise

disguise the Matter any longer, and unable to bear the Menaces which she pronounced against his dear Princess, he said, 'Why, Madam, should you complain of my loving *Leonice*? I had given my Heart before the King commanded me to address you, but durst not tell him so. Love had not reach'd your Breast before that fatal Order; and I am persuaded this Moment, that it is the Crown that gives you the greatest Pleasure in this Alliance: Leave me but my *Leonice*, and I shall be satisfied; let the King set the Crown on your Head.' 'I must consult my Heart on that Article, *reply'd Romelia*; and in the Sentiments I have for you, the Crown without you would be but an indifferent Present. What! have I so few Charms, that you chuse rather to quit that, than share it with me? Consider, too-lovely Prince; reflect on the Troubles you will raise in this Kingdom, should you persist in slighting me: Improve the Moment of my tender Passion; forsake *Leonice*, consent to my Wishes, and I shall forget the Injury. But 'tis time you should resolve.' 'Since I have gone so far, *reply'd the Prince*, as to confess the Love I have for your Sister, you may think I never will change my Sentiments. All your Threats have no Effect: I am not afraid of your Revenge on me.' 'I know so well how to touch you in a sensible Part, *answer'd she*, that you may repent.' 'Ah, *cry'd the Prince*, that's to say, my Princess: But think, *Romelia*, before you undertake it, the Thunder may fall on your own Head.' 'Go, go; I fear you not, *said she with Disdain*: The Misfortunes you make me endure, have learn'd me to dread no others.'

Such high Words as these could not pass without being heard by *Romelia's* Women; and as *Cephisa* was among them at that Time, she ran to inform her Mistress. *Leonice* was mortally griev'd at the sad News, which was the worst she fear'd. She knew that her Sister, when enrag'd, was capable of doing

170 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

any Thing ; and under the Apprehension of being exposed to the Violence of her Sister's Temper, she ran away to the Temple of the Vestals, which was near the Palace, attended only by *Cephisa*. The rest of her Maids went to tell *Romelia* while the Prince was with her, which soon put a Stop to their Passion. For the Prince he stood like an Image ; and *Romelia* knew not whether she should be glad or sorry : For if the Prince was hinder'd from seeing her so often, she at the same Time could not execute what her Rage prompted her to. However, the Prince, borne away by his Love, left her to her Reflections, and ran away to the Temple of the Vestals, where he ask'd very pressinglly to see *Leonice* ; and the Great Vestal, fearing to make a Prince who was next Heir to the Crown her Enemy, sent to his afflicted Mistress to come and talk with him in her Presence. As soon as the Prince saw her,

' Ah ! why, my Princess, *cry'd he*, do you leave me
' expos'd to your Sister's Rage ? Was it for this
' that you protested to love me for ever ? And what
' do you think will become of me, if I never see
' you more ? To what End did you retire to this
' sacred Place ? Do you believe that I cannot defend
' you against *Romelia* ? ' ' I am sensible, Prince, *re-*
' *ply'd Leonice*, both of your Love and Courage ;
' but it would not be well in me to make use of
' them against my Sister, who is supported by the
' King's Commands. I see already the Disturbance
' my unhappy Tenderness will create : I must ap-
' ply the necessary Remedy, since 'tis I who ought
' to be the Sacrifice. Marry the ambitious *Romelia*,
' and give Peace to your Subjects, whom she would
' embroil in Troubles and Confusion. Obey your
' Father ; forget me, if you can ; and let me spend
' the short Remainder of my Days in the Service
' of the Goddess, who alone shall be your Rival :
' For since I am not born for my dear Prince, no
' Mortal else shall ever affect my Heart.' ' Now,
' my *Leonice*, *reply'd* the disconsolate Prince, I see you
don't

The Princess Leonice. 171

' don't love me, since you are capable of giving me
 ' such Advice: I adore you too much, for you to
 ' think I ever could follow it. What if the enrag'd
 ' *Romelia* has Power, and draws the King over to
 ' her Party, they never can force my Heart nor
 ' Hand. But if you will not promise me to be al-
 ' ways my beloved *Leonice*, I cannot answer for my
 ' self to be Master of my Passions.' Then the Great
 Vestal, who stood by all the Time, interrupted this
 tender Conversation, to beg of the Prince to think
 of the Duty he ow'd his Father: But finding that
 all she could urge was to no Purpose, she obliged
Leonice to retire.

In the mean Time, the King was inform'd of this
 Disorder, and sent for the Prince; who was met by
 the Messenger as he was coming back from the
 Temple, and went with him directly to the King;
 and throwing himself at his Feet, said, ' When,
 ' Sir, you commanded me to love *Romelia*, I had
 ' adored her Sister for a considerable Time: The
 ' Fear of your Displeasure made me conceal my Pas-
 ' sion, which *Romelia* soon discover'd; who, proud
 ' of your Authority, threaten'd the lovely *Leonice*;
 ' who, to avoid her Menaces, and to shew you
 ' that she was not accessary to my Disobedience,
 ' retired to the Temple of the Vestals, there to de-
 ' dicate the rest of her Life. But, alas! Sir, I can-
 ' not live without her; my Love increases every
 ' Moment since I am depriv'd of the Sight of her;
 ' and I come to beg of you, if you would preserve
 ' my Life, to take her out of a Place so fatal to my
 ' Repose, and to defend her against her furious Sister.'
 ' I ought, *reply'd the King*, to punish your Disobedience
 ' more severely than I design: But yet, you may
 ' merit your Pardon, and see *Leonice* at Liberty again.'
 ' Ah, Sir! *cry'd the Prince, with Precipitation*, what
 ' must I do?' ' Go to the Princess, *said the King*,
 ' swear to her never to love her Sister any more;
 ' that you are subservient to my Commands; and
 ' that you are ready to give her your Hand to-mor-
row

172 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

'row Morning; and I'll answer for *Romelia's* Friend-
 'ship, and that she shall have no Cause to fear her.'
 'Alas, Sir! *said the Prince*, if that's the Price of my
 'Princess's Liberty, I shall never see her again: I
 'never will marry the hateful *Romelia*; and what-
 'ever happens, will always love her too-charming
 'Sister.' 'Well, then, *said the angry King*, I will
 'marry her for thee, disinherit thee from my
 'Crown, and for ever deprive thee of seeing *Leo-
 'nice*, who makes thee brave my Commands with
 'this Insolence. I'll give you till to-morrow to
 'think of it; and that's all the Favour you can
 'expect from me.'

After this the Prince took his Leave, and retir'd
 to his own Apartment with inexpressible Grief,
 and spent the Night in the most frightful Agita-
 tations; and as soon as he thought it convenient to
 see *Romelia*, went to pay her a Visit. 'Behold,
 'Madam, *said he, going into her Chamber*, a Prince
 'whose Life depends on you: The King, to keep
 'his Word which he gave to place the Crown on
 'your Head, will have me marry you, or is re-
 'solved to do it himself, and in the Assurance of
 'having Children by you, will deprive me of it for
 'ever. I consent to it with all my Heart; and
 'shall behold you on the Throne without Envy, if
 'you will but obtain of my Father the Favour of
 'confining his Revenge so far, and to restore me
 'my Princess. I promise not to marry her, but
 'only to have the Pleasure of seeing her sometimes.
 'Is the asking a few Moments to tell *Leonice* that
 'I sacrifice both my Life and Glory for her, too
 'much for a Crown?' 'O Heavens! *reply'd the en-
 'raged Princess*, how can I support this injurious
 'Discourse? How can you believe, Prince, that my
 'Passion for you will let me accept the Offer you
 'make me of your Crown? Was not you told Yes-
 'terday, that nothing could please me but your
 'dear self? Has my Sister's Beauty so bewitch'd you
 'as to think, that I, who value you more than my
 'Life,

' Life, which I would almost forfeit, that you would
 ' never see her again, but forget those pernicious
 ' Charms, can submit that she should be restored to
 ' you? You would have me deliver her, that you
 ' might shew the Disdain you have of me, by yield-
 ' ing me up to your Father. No, Traytor, think
 ' me not so easy; for since I cannot gain any Thing
 ' on thy Heart by my Tenderneſs, I will abandon
 ' myself to whatever my Rage shall inspire. I'll
 ' marry the King, only to be the more Miſtreſs of
 ' my Siſter. O Heavens! How pleaſed ſhall I be to
 ' make thee partake of thoſe Torments which thou
 ' cauſeſt me to endure, and to render thy *Leonice*
 ' ſo miſerable, that ſhe ſhall wiſh for Death!'
 ' Ah, cruel Princeſs! *interrupted the Prince*, you drive
 ' me to the laſt Deſpair: You ſhall answer for the
 ' Life of your Siſter; no Violence ſhall bound my
 ' Revenge, if ſhe's in any Danger.' And in ſaying
 theſe Words he turn'd about to go, but was ſtopp'd
 by the King, who was juſt then coming in:
 ' Stay, Prince, *ſaid he*, and tell this fair Princeſs
 ' and me, if you are ready to do her that Juſtice
 ' which in Duty you are obliged to do.' ' Sir, *ſaid*
 ' *he*, you know what I told you Yeſterday: I can-
 ' not live without *Leonice*; therefore it is in your
 ' Breſt whether you will give me Life or Death.'
 ' Go, *answer'd the King in a Rage*, thou makeſt thy
 ' ſelf by thy Obſtinacy unworthy our Care. But
 ' how, Madam, *continued he, turning himſelf towards*
 ' *the Princeſs*, can I otherwiſe repair the Inſatuation
 ' of my Son, but by offering you my Hand and
 ' Crown, and promiſing that your Siſter ſhall never
 ' ſtir out of the Temple of the Veſtals, but by your
 ' Orders?' ' I am confounded with your Maſteſty's
 ' Bounty, *reply'd Romelia*, and ſubmit to what you
 ' ſhall pleaſe to command.' What a ſudden Shock
 was this to the unfortunate Prince, to hear the Re-
 ſolution of the revengeful *Romelia*! But it was out
 of his Power to prevent it; and he was forc'd to
 ſee her that Evening the Wife of his Father: fo

174 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

the King would have the Marriage private. The whole Court was very much concern'd : They knew the Princess's Humour ; and never doubted but the King, who was very old, would be govern'd by that wicked Woman ; and above all, pitied the Prince, who did not deserve such ill Fortune. Tho' this he found was not the greatest, when going that Night to see his dear *Leonice*, he was refused that Pleasure by the positive Command of the new Queen.

The poor young Princess was inconsolable when she was inform'd of her Sister's Marriage : She knew very well that it was to torment her that she married the King, and that she never should see the Prince any more. Alas, what Complaints did she make to *Cephisa* ! who endeavour'd to comfort her ; but knew at the same Time she had so just Cause to bewail her unhappy Fate, that she could not forbear crying with her. In the mean Time the new Queen's Pleasure was somewhat allay'd with Grief ; for she was no sooner married to the King, but she knew that she was no longer to look upon the Prince. Then she repented that she had made herself so great an Obstacle to what she so much desired. Her Revenge fell with more Violence on her own Head than she imagined ; and the more she strove to take Pleasure in rendring both the Objects of her Love and Hate miserable, the more she found herself so ; and could not but fear the King would repent of the Injustice he had done his Son, and would give his Consent that he should marry *Leonice* to make him an Amends.

She was no sooner struck with this Idea, but she thought of preventing it while she had the greater Influence over her Husband. She was not unsensible that a Prince named *Ligdamon* had been for a long Time in Love with *Leonice* ; and that the young Princess conceived a mortal Aversion for him by Reason of his ill Qualities, and that besides he was very ugly and deform'd. This Prince the Queen

The Princess Leonice. : 75

sent for, and told him, That if he would steal her Sister away, and marry her, she would find him the Way how ; and that he might not fear the Prince's Rage, she would give him a Guard to conduct them into her Province, where he should be absolute Master. *Ligdamon* accepted these Conditions so conformable to his Desires : His Delicacy was not so refin'd, as to insist on an equal Return of Passion ; but if he could possess *Leonice*, he cared not by what Means. And the Queen pleased to find him so ready to obey her, dismiss'd him, charging him to engage as many People to assist him as he could, and leave the rest to her.

That this Plot might succeed the better, it was necessary that the Princess should be taken out of the Temple. To this End, one Day when the Queen was alone with the King, she fell on her Knees, and begg'd of him to grant her the Favour of permitting her Sister to be with her, assuring him that she should have no Commerce with the Prince. The King, who could refuse her nothing, and who, since his Marriage, had conceiv'd a very great Tenderness for her, consented. The Queen had no sooner got this Leave, but she sent immediately for the Prince, to whom she had never spoke since she had been his Mother-in-Law, and told him, That having reflected on those Misfortunes she had caused him, to make him a Recompence, she would restore *Leonice* to him, for whom she had ask'd the King's Leave to quit her Retirement. The Prince knew not what he ought to think, and how so great a Change should come about ; and she perceived his Irresolution. But willing to persuade him that she was sincere, said, ' I see, Prince, that you don't believe me ; but that you may be a Witness of the Truth, give me your Hand, and lead me to the Place which retains the Person who of all Things is most dear to you.' Ah ! Madam, replied the Prince, receiving her Hand, which she held out to him, how much shall I be oblig-

176 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

‘ged to you, my Life will be but too small a Return
‘for this Favour.’

After these Words they went to the Temple, and the Queen shewing the King’s Orders to the Great Vestal, bid her let her Sister out. The Vestal reply’d, That she was ready to obey the King, if the Princess would consent; but as that Temple was a Sanctuary she had made choice of, to be under the Protection of the Goddess, she could not force her to quit it. The Queen hearken’d to this Discourse with great Impatience, and turning herself toward the Princess, said, ‘What, *Leonice*, are you
‘resolv’d to live here the Remainder of your Days,
‘and will you not obey the Commands of the King,
‘who order’d me to bring you back to the Palace?
‘Do you hate me so much as to chuse a Prison rather than be near me? Speak, since we must have
‘your Consent.’ ‘Why, *Madam*, said the Prince,
‘*seeing her doubtful what to do*, are you loth to leave
‘a Place which gives a Prince who adores you so
‘much Pain. The Queen grown sensible of the
‘Misery I endured in your Absence, hath made the
‘King my Father relent; and will you be more inexorable than him?’ ‘I doubt not of the Queen’s
‘Favours, reply’d *Leonice*; for tho’ I am dispos’d to
‘obey, I cannot easily resolve to bid adieu to this
‘sacred Place.’ However, with some intreating by the Prince, she, with Tears in her Eyes, took her leave of the Vestal, and all her lovely Companions, and follow’d the Queen to Court, who presented her to the King; by whom she was receiv’d very coldly, but by the whole Court with all imaginable Demonstrations of Joy. The Queen her self caress’d her seemingly with a great deal of pleasure; and in her own Apartment swore she had forgot all that had happen’d before, and that she would endeavour to get the King’s Consent for the Prince to marry her: To this she added, that in the mean time, they should have the Liberty, unknown to the King, of seeing one another every Day; and
that

The Princess Leonice. 177

that by this Piece of Service, she hop'd she should make an Amends for the Injuries received by them, and should oblige them to entertain a Friendship for her.

The Prince, who thought what she said to be all sincere, knew not how to testify his Acknowledgment by Thanks: But the young Princess, who could not persuade herself into a Belief of what she said, was more reserv'd in her Joy. And after the Queen had led her to a magnificent Apartment which she had prepared for her, and whither the Prince follow'd her, she told him the Distrust she had of all *Romelia's* Caresses. The Prince could not approve of this Mistrust of the Princess's, and was in unconceivable Transports of Pleasure to see his dear *Leonice* again; and tho' he said all the most tender Things a violent Passion could inspire, the Princess answer'd only by Tears: And whatever the Prince could say to remove her Apprehensions, she was still assured that the Queen had concealed some Design in what she did, and that she should pay dear for the Pleasure she then enjoy'd; and was not much mistaken in these Conjectures: For that wicked Woman had no sooner retir'd to her own Apartment, but she sent for *Ligdamon* to bid him prepare against the next Night. Her Rage would not permit her to wait longer for her Revenge; the Prince's Love for that innocent Lady redoubled both her Passion and Jealousy, insomuch that she could not bear those precious Moments they pass'd together: And tho' through Policy she had resolv'd to defer it for some Days, she changed her Mind, and contriv'd every Thing with that Minister of her Hate for the next Night, and order'd him to take care to be supported in all the Places through which he was to pass; and then he took his Leave.

The Apartment that the Queen had appointed the Princess was a great Distance from her own, and look'd into the Gardens; so that by the Means

178 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*


of one of the Park-Gates which open'd into them, and was by her Orders left unlock'd, she might be taken away without any great Difficulty. All Things being ready, the Queen appear'd very merry that Night, and extream complaisant to her Sister; and when she retir'd, embrac'd and wish'd a good Night. The Prince, who could not bear the Thoughts of parting from her, offer'd his Hand to conduct her; but was desir'd by *Remelia* not to do it, for fear the King might see him: But he unable to oppose the Desire he had of conversing with her before he went to Bed, thought that when her Attendants were dismiss'd he should have that Happiness, and so went and walk'd in the Gardens; and sitting down in an Arbour that faced her Windows, waited with Impatience till she and *Cephisa* were alone. *Ligdamon*, after he had placed his Myrmidons, came just almost to the same Place to execute his pernicious Designs; and seeing but little Light in the Palace, and being secure of *Leonice's* Guards, gave the Signal for his People to advance. Upon which the Doors of the Princess's Apartment were open'd, and *Ligdamon* and some of his Party went in unperceiv'd by the Prince, the Night being dark. The Shrieks of the Princess and *Cephisa* alarm'd him, and he ran in just as *Ligdamon* was dragging her along; and at that Sight, like an enrag'd Lion, drawing his Sword, cry'd out, 'Stay, base Villain, or with thy Death atone for thy Insolence. *Ligdamon* fearing that he was discover'd, turn'd his Head, and look'd pale, but seeing the Prince alone, would not vouchsafe him an Answer, but making a Sign to his Ruffians to stop him, kept still hold of the Princess. The first who advanc'd receiv'd his Death from the Prince, and several were sore wounded, that at last he made his Way thro' them, and calling out to *Ligdamon* to defend himself, gave him such a Blow on the Arm, as forc'd him to quit his Hold. In the mean Time the Shrieks of the Princess's Maids awaken'd the whole Court, and the Guards

which

which were not in that Confederacy, ran to see what was the Matter, and came to the Assistance of their Prince just when he was oppress'd by great Numbers of *Ligdamon's* Party ; who as soon as he saw the Guards would have made his Escape, but was prevented by a Stroke, which the Prince gave him, of which he immediately died.

The poor Princess during this Disorder was in a Condition worthy Pity, and implor'd Heaven to assist her dear Prince, whom she expected to be sacrificed every Moment. But how great was her Joy, when she saw the Guards arrive, and *Ligdamon* weltering in his Gore ! whose Followers, as soon as they saw he was dead, fled with so much Precipitation, that in the Confusion every Body was in, they were not pursu'd till they were got out of their Reach.

In the mean Time the Queen was transported with Grief, when she was inform'd of the ill Success of her Plot, which had been the only Means of restoring her Sister to her Lover : But that she still might the better conceal her ill Designs, she rose presently, and went with all her Guards to *Leonice's* Apartment, to give her an Assistance which she knew she then stood in no need of. She found the Princess half dead with the Fright, her Chamber full of Blood and dead Bodies, and the Prince on his Knees, holding one of her fair Hands, and endeavouring to remove her Tears. What a Sight was this to her ! She was ready to burst with Rage ; but restraining herself, at last told her Sister how sorry she was for the Accident ; when the Prince, interrupting her, gave her to understand that he knew it to be a Work of her own Hands too well, and told her, that for the future he himself would be the Princess's Guard, to defend her against all such Assaults. The Queen denied it with Anger ; and telling the Princess that she ought not to stay any longer in a Place so horrible, order'd her to follow her.



180 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

Soon after this Disorder, Day appear'd, and the Prince went to complain to the King of the Insult, and accused the Queen as an Accomplice : Which the King would by no means hearken to ; but promised to allow *Leonice* so good a Guard, that she should not be exposed again to the like Misfortune. After this, the Prince not over-well satisfied with these Assurances, went to the Princess, and swore never to leave her. However, all his Precautions were in vain ; for the Queen perceiving that it lay not in her Power to separate those two Hearts, address'd herself to a Fairy whom she knew to be an Enemy to the Royal Family, and told her, that she came to beg her Assistance against the Prince her Son-in-Law and her perfidious Sister ; and that by revenging her, she might also gratify her own private Pique. The Fairy glad of the Opportunity, bid the Queen carry her only into the Palace-Gardens, and then leave the Affair to her. Upon which the Queen return'd home very well pleas'd, and with Hopes of being deliver'd of her Rival for ever. And to execute her Part, in the Evening invited her Sister to take the Air in the Gardens, with very few Attendants. The Prince, who never left her, went with them ; which was not so agreeable to the Queen, to whom he was oblig'd to give his Hand, and the Princess walked behind, leaning on *Cephisa's* Arm ; when all on a sudden she felt herself lifted up into the Air by an invisible Power. She gave a Shriek, which made the Prince stop, who immediately let go the Queen's Hand to run to the Assistance of his dear Princess ; but finding only *Cephisa*, and hearing her Voice in the Air, follow'd it a long Time, till it lessening by Degrees, was no longer to be heard, and he, just ready to die with Weariness and Despair, had got a great Distance from the Palace. In the mean time, the poor Princess was transported by the Fairy into an old Castle, built on the Top of a steep craggy Rock, which *no Mortal had ever climb'd up* ; where after she
had

had put her under the Guard of a Dragon with three fiery Tongues, she return'd to the disconsolate Prince in the Shape of a decrepid old Woman. 'Alas! what brought you hither Prince? *said she.*' 'An invisible Power, *reply'd he,* hath carried away my Princess, whom I have follow'd as long as I could hear her Voice.' 'Come, *said she, striking him with her Wand,* I can lead you to the Place where she is.' The Prince follow'd her till they came to the Bottom of a Rock, where the Fairy pointing to the Castle, said, 'Behold the Place where thy Princess is detain'd; if thou doubtst the Truth, I will shew her to thee.' In saying these Words, she left the Prince overwhelm'd with Grief; and going into the Castle, took *Leonice* by the Hand, and led her to the Point of the Rock, 'Look, *said she, shewing the Princess,* I am as good as my Word; take her from me, if you are able.' And without giving them Time to speak to each other, dragg'd her into her horrible Prison.

The Prince remain'd in the utmost Consternation when he saw his beloved *Leonice* forc'd into her Prison; and what increas'd his Despair, was the Impossibility of delivering her from so horrible a Place. He endeavour'd often to climb the Rock, and as often, after two or three Steps, fell down again. Then he thought of returning, to fetch Workmen to cut a Track; but was too much afraid of not finding his Princess again, to resolve to leave her. And in these Irresolutions, and bewailing himself, he spent the Night without any Hopes that the next Day would make him the more happy.

On the other hand, the Queen was very much pleas'd that she had got rid of her Sister, but not to lose the Prince. The King grew very uneasy for his Son, and sent out Parties, but all in vain, to find him, which increased his Melancholy. He repented, but too late, of the ill Usage he gave his Son, and began to conceive an Aversion for the Queen, which never disturb'd her; for by her

Intrigue

182 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

Intrigues she had made sure of the greater Part of his Dominions ; and the Prince's Absence affected her more than her Husband's Coldness.

She went again to the Fairy, to ask where the Prince was, and what she had done with her Sister. The Fairy told her, she could give her the Pleasure of seeing them both in that miserable Condition to which her Hatred had reduc'd them. The Queen seem'd very desirous of it ; and the Fairy immediately transported her to the Castle where the unfortunate *Leonice* was kept, whom she found chain'd to the Foot of a Pillar, from whence she could see the Prince without ever being perceiv'd by him, and guarded by a watchful and terrible Dragon which never slept. The barbarous Queen, overjoy'd at her Misery, instead of comforting her, loaded her with Reproaches : To which the Princess return'd no Answer, but fix'd her Eyes stedfastly upon the Prince, whom she saw endeavouring to climb the Rock ; which the Queen observing, and turning about, beheld that Object of her Love and Hatred, just when he had found a better tracked Path, and began to mount with more Ease. At this Sight, and for fear he should deliver her Rival, she shriek'd out : But the Fairy assur'd her she had nought to fear ; and that the Dragon would secure her, should he get to her. In the mean Time, the Prince pursued the Path, and the Hopes of assisting his Princess gave him fresh Strength, when he perceiv'd a Greyhound Bitch tied to a ragged Piece of that Rock, and just strangled. This Object rais'd Compassion in his Breast ; and going up to the poor Creature, with some Difficulty broke the Chain : But how great was his Surprize to see the Greyhound, as soon as at Liberty, become a Woman ! He stepp'd back : But that beautiful Person taking him by the Hand, said, ' Be not afraid, Prince, of
' the Enchantment which you yourself have broke.
' *I am of the Race of the Fairies, and have a great*
' *many Gifts, which I will bestow on you. But my*
' *Power*

‘ Power is limited : The envious Fairy, who keeps thy Princess a Prisoner, hath tied me to this Rock for many Years under that Form you released me from, because I was beloved by a great many Princes, who despised her. I have waited your coming with great Impatience ; and in Acknowledgment of your Service to me, and out of Revenge, will do what I can for you. Go, *said she*, into that Cavern, *showing him an Opening that was hewn out of the Rock*, and put on the Armour you will find there, and fear not the Dragon, for you shall assuredly vanquish him ; and in the mean Time I will wait for you by yonder Brook, which purls over those Pebbles.’ After these Words she left him ; and the Prince, as soon as he could put on the Armour, pursued his Way to the Castle-Gates ; and the Fairy seeing him advance, detach’d the Dragon from the Princess to those Gates. The Prince without Delay press’d hard with his Lance in his Hand upon that frightful Monster, which at the same Time, with a dreadful Hissing, flew into the Air, to fall plum upon him ; which the Prince being aware off, stepp’d back, and taking the Opportunity of that Monster’s Extension of his Wings, ran his Sword directly into his Belly, that he died at his Feet.

The Fairy no sooner saw this Action, but taking hold of the Princess, notwithstanding her Cries, carried her away in the same Manner as at first. In the mean Time, that victorious Prince enter’d the Castle with Precipitation to deliver his Princess : But, O Heavens ! how great was his Despair when he found none but *Romelia* ! His bloody Sword fell out of his Hand, and he remain’d some Time insensible, when the Presence of that wicked Woman rekindling his Rage, he went directly up to her : ‘ What hast thou done with my Princess, *said he*, in a menacing Air : Restore her to me, or expect the just Punishment for thy Crimes. ‘ She is not in my Power, *reply’d the Queen*, who seem’d unconcern’d

184 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

' *at the Prince's Threats* : The Fairy no sooner saw
 ' that you had conquer'd the Dragon, but she re-
 ' mov'd her hence. Witness, ye Powers ! how I
 ' trembled when I saw you expos'd to the Rage of
 ' that terrible Monster, and with how much more
 ' Violence I love thee than thy *Leonice*, who, I ob-
 ' serv'd, during the Combat, seem'd overjoy'd with
 ' Hopes, and never so much as chang'd Colour for
 ' fear you should not succeed. Wilt thou never be
 ' sensible of thy Error ? Thou believest that thou
 ' art beloved by her, and art not : 'Tis only in my
 ' Heart thou canst find that ardent Passion so wor-
 ' thy of thine.'

The Prince would not have borne so malicious a
 Discourse so long, if his Grief to find that his Prin-
 cess was again forced away, had not put it out of his
 Power to answer her. He was more unhappy than
 ever, to have his *Leonice* snatch'd away just when he
 thought to deliver her ; and besides, knew not
 which Way to go after her. In this deplorable
 State he could not tell what to resolve on ; and
 without minding what *Romelia* said, imploy'd his
 Thoughts how to find the Princess ; and at last re-
 membering that the Fairy Greyhound told him that
 she would wait for him at the Brook, he believed
 she might serve him again. With this Thought,
 and not looking upon the Queen, he went out of
 the Castle with an incredible Swiftnes, and climb-
 ed down the Rock with as much Hast, without
 regarding *Romelia's* Cries, who, notwithstanding
 his Disdain, ran as fast as she could after him, and
 fell into that Cavern from whence the Prince had
 his Arms and was never heard of more.

The Prince made all imaginable Hast to the
 Brook, where he found the Fairy Greyhound wait-
 ing for him. ' Well, generous Prince, *said she*, I
 ' see you have vanquish'd the Monster.' ' Alas ! re-
 ' ply'd he, of what Use is my Victory to me, since I
 ' have not deliver'd my Princess, and know not
 ' where to look for her ? ' ' Never fear, answer'd
 ' the

' *the compassionate Fairy*, we shall find her.' And bidding the Prince stay a little, left him, and returned soon after with an Horse in her Hand, which she bid him mount; and shewing him a Track which lay by the Brook-Side, told him that would lead him to a subterraneous Cave, where his Princess was; that the Gate was guarded by Monsters that were half Men and half Serpents, which would oppose his Entrance; but that he need but present his Shield to them, and not make use of his Sword and Lance; that after he had overcome them, he would meet with a furious Lion, which was the last Guard the Princess had; and also, that when he came near her he should shew his Shield, which would hinder the wicked Fairy from taking her away as before.

The Prince thank'd the Fairy in few Words; and mounting the Horse, and following the Track without stopping a Moment, arriv'd in a short Time at the Entrance of the Cavern. It was guarded, as the Fairy had told him, by Monsters; to which the Prince no sooner presented his Shield, but they stood motionless, were chang'd into their former Shapes of Men, who throwing themselves at the Prince's Feet, swore to employ the rest of their Lives to acknowledge their Deliverance from the malicious Fairy's Enchantment, and that he might command them for ever. ' I only ask your Assistance, *reply'd the Prince*, to set an unhappy Princess at Liberty, who is kept a Prisoner by the inhuman Fairy in this Cave.' And then he led them into it, and saw at the further End of that frightful Den the Princess chain'd by the Middle, and a terrible Lion lying by her. What a Sight was this for the Prince! who desirous to free her from so miserable a Condition, gave a Shout, which rous'd the Lion. The Prince went directly up to him without any Delay before the rest came up, ran his Spear into his Throat as he open'd his Mouth, and that he might not lose

186 *The Tales of the FAIRIES:*

any Time, plung'd his Sword into his Sides: But notwithstanding the Largeness of both the Wounds, the furious Creature flew upon him, when the Men that were freed by him came into the Aid of their Benefactor, and gave him so many Wounds that he died instantly. The Prince no sooner found that he was rid of his Enemy, but he ran to the Princess, and presenting his miraculous Shield, her Chains fell off, and that frightful Den was chang'd into a magnificent Palace, out of which there came a great Number of beautiful Persons, who came to rejoice with the Princess for hers and their own Deliverance.

The Men who follow'd the Prince shouted with Joy at the Sight of these Ladies, and threw themselves at their Feet, to testify their Gladness to find them again; while the Prince, who never observ'd what pass'd, was at the Princess's Knees, expressing the most violent Passion that Love ever inspired. 'Once more then, my dear Princess, *said he*, I see you again, and the cruel Gods are wearied out with my Sufferings!' 'Alas! my dear Prince, *answer'd Leonice*, I am so unhappy that I know not how long I shall enjoy this Pleasure; and I doubt the implacable *Romelia* is now inventing some new Torments.' 'Fear nothing, *cry'd the Fairy Greyhound, who appear'd that Moment*, your Misfortunes are ended as well as mine. The Queen is punish'd for all her Crimes; the envious Fairy has no more Power over you; and you are absolute Mistress in this Palace, which your generous Lover has restor'd me, and nothing shall interrupt your Happiness.' The Princess beheld so many surprizing Things at once, that she knew not what Answer to make; when the Prince, who knew and had made tryal of the Fairy's Kindness, thank'd her with a sincere Acknowledgment both for himself and his beloved *Leonice*; and till then had not taken notice of the Metamorphosis of the Cave into a Palace,

The Princess Leonice. 187

lace, nor of the many illustrious Persons who stood about him. In the mean Time, all these Gentlemen and Ladies pressed forwards to pay their Respects to the Fairy their Princess, who, for all she had been transformed into a Greyhound, was the Sovereign of that Palace, and all the Country about it.

Leonice could not recover her Amazement, and would have ask'd her Lover a thousand Questions at once, to clear up that Adventure : But the Princess Fairy, taking her by the Hand, told her it was not then a proper Time ; that she stood in need of some Repose ; and that the next Morning her Curiosity should be satisfied. After that she led her into a Chamber that shined all over with Gold and Jewels, where soon after there was serv'd up a nice Supper ; and as soon as the Cloth was taken away again, she retired to give her the Liberty of enjoying the Prince's Company in private. O how tender was their Conversation ! They could have spent the Night with Pleasure together, if *Leonice* had not been afraid of offending against the Rules of Decorum, by permitting her Lover to stay too late.

In the Morning the Fairy Princess paid her a Visit, to enquire how she did ; and embracing her, said, ' The Obligation, my dear Princess, that I have to your Prince is so great, that I know not how to acknowledge it, but by making him Master of all that he hath restor'd me to.' ' Madam, reply'd *Leonice*, the Prince that you say hath serv'd you, is so sensible of the Favours he has receiv'd from you, that I believe he ought to return you a thousand Thanks : But, Madam, continued she, you promis'd to inform me how you came acquainted, and of the surprizing Changes I saw yesterday.' ' That I will, reply'd the Fairy Princess, and am not sorry that my Deliverer, said she, seeing the Prince come in, to whom *Leonice* beckon-

188 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

‘ed to sit down, and say nothing, should be a Witness.’

‘I am the Daughter of a King, who, of all the Dominions that he had once been Master of, (but that Story is too long to tell you now,) had no more left than this Castle, and the Country about it. He married a Princess of the Fairy Race, who, knowing that she should die soon after I was born, endow’d me with all the Gifts she was Mistress of. My Father died also when I was very young, and left me Mistress of this small Sovereignty. My Court was gallant, and full of the most beautiful Persons of both Sexes: Nothing but Pleasure was to be seen in every one’s Countenance; and hardly a Day past without Feasts or Tournaments, made by all the Princes about me. This envious Fairy, my Neighbour, her Court was as empty as mine was crowded; and jealous of my Happiness, she sought all the Ways imaginable to make me miserable. One Day, when we were all dress’d for a fine Ball, and washing my Hands, I had forgot to put a Ring again upon my Finger which my Mother had given me to prevent all Incantments; and she being in my Chamber, and perceiving my Forgetfulness, and willing to make use of that Opportunity, follow’d us to the Ball, where we danced a long Time, and she was never taken out. Outraged at this Slight, she got up in a Passion, and striking the Floor three Times with her Wand, Curs’d Race, *said she, in a frightful Tone*, feel the Power of her whom ye have despised. At the same Time the Women became as motionless as Statues, and the Men half Serpents, without the Sense of knowing what they were before; and my Palace was changed into a horrible Den; then coming up to me, and catching me by the Hair of my Head, she dragg’d me to the Rock where you found me, metamorphos’d me into a Greyhound, and chaining me fast to the solid
‘ Stone

' Stone, and leaving me, said, with a mocking
 ' Smile, For an Example to all those, who, not
 ' knowing their own Strength, despise them who
 ' have Power to destroy them, thou shalt remain
 ' in this miserable State, till a Prince, more mis-
 ' erable than thyself, shall come hither to seek for
 ' his Princess. And after these Words she left me
 ' overwhelm'd with Despair. While I remain'd in
 ' this State, a great many Years rolled away; and
 ' when I least thought of your Coming, *said she to*
 ' *the Prince*, through the Length of Time wherein I
 ' endur'd so much, you arriv'd and compassionating
 ' my Misfortunes, broke my Chain, and with A-
 ' mazement beheld my sudden Change. You know
 ' what follow'd since by your extraordinary Cou-
 ' rage: You have given Liberty to your beloved
 ' Princess and all my unhappy Subjects. How en-
 ' rag'd is the envious Fairy that it is no longer in
 ' her Power to hurt us! And how great a Pleasure
 ' is it to me, to bestow on the beautiful *Leonice* all
 ' those Gifts my dying Mother left me! Youth and
 ' Beauty she shall carry with her to the Grave;
 ' Pleasures shall croud after her Steps; and all
 ' Places wherever her bright Eyes shall shine,
 ' shall abound with all that can satisfy Magnifi-
 ' cence or Ambition; while the Sweetens that Love
 ' prepares for ye both, shall be uninterrupted. For
 ' you, Prince, the only Sorrow that shall attend
 ' your Days, I shall now reveal to you: The King
 ' your Father, no longer able to support the
 ' Weight of Years, and the Grief of losing you,
 ' and full of Remorse for the Injury done you by
 ' marrying *Romelia*, died within these two Days;
 ' and your Kingdom wants your Presence. Go
 ' there with your lovely Princess, and fill a
 ' Throne worthy of you and her. I have prepa-
 ' red an Equipage that shall second your Impa-
 ' tience.'

190 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

After these Words the Fairy rose off her Seat, and embracing them both with Tenderness, led them, without listening to their Thanks, to a Chariot of Gold adorn'd with Diamonds, drawn by flying Dragons ; and having bid them a last Adieu, she soon lost Sight of them, leaving them to go to their own Kingdom ; where they soon after arrived, and where they finish'd their Days with all the Pleasures a mutual Love can create, when attended with Wisdom and Beauty.



The



The TYRANNY of the *Fairies* destroy'd.

THE Power of the Fairies was arriv'd to so great an Height, that the greatest Princes of the World were afraid of displeasing them; and that cursed Generation became so formidable by the Punishments they inflicted, that few or none were so hardy as to disobey them. Their Rage was not to be satisfy'd, but by changing the most amiable Persons into the most frightful Monsters; and if they gave not immediate Death, they made them languish away in the most miserable Condition. The Impossibility of being reveng'd of them, render'd them the more imperious and cruel. But of all the Persons whom they made the most unhappy, was the Princess *Philonice*, whose natural Charms made them desirous to match her to one of their Kings.

Big with this Thought, one Day, when she was walking out with her Mother, they took her away, without any Regard to the Cries, either of the Mother or the Daughter. The young Princess was about twelve Years old; and for her Age was a Master-piece of Nature, both for the Beauty of her Body and Mind. But to make her an Amends for the Violence they had done her, they transported her to a charming Palace, situate between two little Hills, in a Valley that abounded with whatever

192 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

might delight the Eye, and even excell'd the Valley of *Tempe*, so much boasted of by the Poets. An eternal Spring reign'd there ; the Gardens were full of Canals, Fountains, and Orange-Trees, which form'd Shades Proof against the most piercing Sun. In short, whatever Nature and the Fairy Art could afford, was found in this enchanted Abode.

The young Princess, insensible to all these Wonders, was seized with a Melancholy, that would have rais'd Pity in any but those merciless Fairies : However, they committed her to the Care of the most human and tender among them, whose Name was *Serpenta*, with Orders to let her have no Commerce with any Body. *Serpenta*, to execute their Commands, immediately rais'd, at one End of the Garden, a magnificent Pavilion, whither she led *Philonice*, and gave her for a Companion a young Girl they had taken away at two Years old, whose Name was *Elisa*, with several pretty Creatures besides to divert her. One Part of the Day she employ'd her in working Gold, Tissue, and fine embroider'd Silks ; and the rest in dressing herself in stately Habits, full of Diamonds and Pearls. In short, she let her want for Nothing that she thought could please a young Person, but was cautious how she mention'd the Monster for whom they design'd her ; for the Time was not come when they intended to consummate that so disagreeable a Marriage, and they had a Mind to use her to their Customs before they pronounc'd her Misfortune.

Sometimes she would take her a walking into those before-mention'd pleasant Places, and making her to take notice of all the Beauties they abounded with, told her, ' That if she was obedient to her Commands, she should one Day be Mistress of ' them ; but must take care how she merited her ' ill Will, for that she knew as well how to punish ' as reward.' While the Fairy was talking after this Manner, *Philonice* seeing two Turtles that seem'd very tame, sitting by the Canal Side, was very de-
groom

Tyranny of the Fairies destroy'd. 193

firous of them, and ask'd leave to catch them, and carry them to her Pavilion. ' I cannot grant your Request, *said the Fairy*, for the Fate of those two Birds is never to leave the Canal. They were formerly a beautiful Prince and Princess, for whom we had taken a great Affection, and loved each other with extraordinary Tenderness: But when our Thoughts tended most to their Happiness, they happen'd to see one of our Sisters, whose Skin was cover'd with Turtle-Feathers, which she carefully conceal'd, bathing in this Canal; who, vex'd to be discover'd, wish'd they might never tell what they had seen, and might become Turtles themselves: At the same Time throwing Water in their Faces, they immediately chang'd their Nature, and became Doves; as you see them, and under that new Form, preserving their Tenderness, never leave one another, but pass away their Time in bewailing their ill Fortunes. Here are many Examples of our Power besides, *continued the Fairy*; all the Statues that you see along these Terrasses, were formerly the Subjects of a powerful neighbouring Prince, who before these Gardens were made, and we had this Habitation, saw us one Night, by Moon-Light, dancing in this Valley, and ridiculing our Actions and Postures, so much provoked us, that we converted them into Statues, and plac'd them afterwards where they now stand.'

This Discourse increas'd *Philonice's* Fear; she promis'd to obey them, and never to incur their Displeasure, tho' the Thing appear'd to them very difficult. Nevertheless *Philonice* grew handsomer and handsomer every Day, and became the Delight of the Fairies; who seeing her perform every Thing that they enjoin'd her, carress'd her, and loaded her with Presents; and at last entertain'd so great a Friendship for her, that she had Liberty to go where ever she pleas'd without the Fairy Serpenta; and if she could have forgot her Mother and Country, she might have led a very happy Life. She lov'd

194 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

Elisa with a Passion, of which that young Person was deserving; for her Temper was so sweet, it was impossible to forbear having an Inclination for her. And one Evening, when it was very hot, as they were walking in a Grove of Citrons some Distance from their Tent, and the Beauty of the Night charm'd them so much, that they could not resolve to retire early, they saw a Woman coming towards them, with a Handkerchief in her Hand, with which she dry'd up the Tears which trickled fast down her Cheeks. So melancholy a Sight created Pity in these young Persons, who advanced both at the same Time to ask her what troubled her; but were prevented by the Fright they were put in by a great Dragon that sallied out from behind a large Bush, and clasp'd the Woman about the Neck, who, instead of being afraid, carress'd him again; and the sitting down on the Ground, he laid himself so tenderly by her, that *Philonice*, not doubting but there was some Mystery in that Form, approach'd to be inform'd of an Adventure which inspir'd her with so much Curiosity; when she heard that afflicted Person, redoubling her Tears, say to the Dragon, 'How long, my dear *Philoxipus*, shall I behold you so different from yourself? Will our cruel Enemies never have done persecuting us? And ought they not to be satisfied with the Tears I have shed? Or rather, when will that adorable Princess, who is said to be born for the Good of Mankind, come and break our Chains by destroying these hateful Fairies, whose tyrannick Power extends but too far?'

Philonice could not forbear fetching of a Sigh at this Woman's Discourse, who, turning her Head to see from whence it came, and perceiving the Princess, was afraid lest she might be one of the Fairies, and therefore rose up to be gone. *Philonice* perceiving her Fright, and accosting her, said, 'Be not afraid, Madam; we are unfortunate Persons, and detain'd here as well as yourself; are sensibly

con-

Tyranny of the Fairies destroy'd. 195

' concern'd at your Complaints; and if we can comfort you in your Misfortunes, we'll do it with all our Hearts.' ' It is somewhat extraordinary, Madam, *answer'd that beautiful Person*, to find here any one capable of Compassion; for you are the first that I have met with for these five Years, that I have been kept here by the Fairies with my unhappy *Philoxipus*, *pointing to the Dragon*.' ' I wish to Heaven! *reply'd the Princess*, that it was in my Power to put an End to your Misfortunes, you should see I would not waste Time in pitying you: But since that is all that I am able to do, refuse me not that dull Pleasure, and tell us by what cruel Fate you was brought hither. The Story is now too long, *reply'd the Stranger*; our implacable Enemies may take my too long Absence ill; for they allow me but an Hour in a Day to see my lovely Dragon in, and that is a Favour which I obtain'd by my Tears of the Fairy *Serpenta*, who is the only one that is sensible of Pity: But to-morrow at this Time, I will satisfy your Curiosity.' *Philonice* promised to meet her, and then left her to spend the small remaining Time with her dear Dragon.

This Object struck the young Princess and her Companion so deeply, that they could not sleep all that Night; and the Fairy *Serpenta* going into her Chamber the next Morning, found her so much concern'd, that she ask'd her the Reason of it. *Philonice* was too cautious to inform her; but telling her she was not well, follow'd her to the Palace, where all the Fairies were assembled together. All that Day she spent with Impatience for the Hour of Rendezvous; which drawing near, she took her Leave of her imperious Mistresses, to meet with her dear *Elisa* and the Afflicted Lady: But Fortune prepared another Adventure for her. Instead of taking the Path to the Citron-Grove, they follow'd another without observing it, which brought them upon a great Terrass that overlook'd the Valley, from whence they might behold all the Beauties of N.

196 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

ture. They were surpriz'd to find that they had miss'd their Path, and going the direct Way from thence to the Grove, found on the Turning of an Alley a Man laid at the Foot of an Ewe-Tree, who seem'd to be asleep. This Novelty made them stop: They had never seen any Men there before; and the young *Elisa*, who had been kept there almost ever since she was born, ask'd the Princess what Creature it was; and spoke so loud, that the Stranger waked, and arose with all Precipitation at the Sight of two such beautiful Ladies; and seeing them about to run away, got before them, and stopp'd them: 'What am I so unhappy, *said he, addressing himself to Philonice, whose natural Beauty struck him*, as to create in you any Fear? And have you the Cruelty to punish me, by leaving me in so much Haste?' 'We are so little us'd, *reply'd the Princess, stopping*, to see such Persons, that we are somewhat amaz'd. It may be dangerous for us to stay here now the Night is so far advanc'd; for you undoubtedly know not the Place you are in, since you slept so quietly. This is the Abode of Fairies, who will not forgive your entering here without their Leave: Therefore be gone immediately, lest you make Tryal of their Anger; and let us go, for fear we should be taken for Accomplices of your Crime.' 'Alas, Madam! *cry'd the Stranger*, I regard not the Fairies Power when in Danger of losing you; for tho' this is the first Time I ever saw you, I am very sensible I can never leave you all my Life; and was I to undergo the most severe Punishments, which you seem to threaten me with, I cannot enough praise Heaven for having separated me from my Attendants, to shew me a Beauty so accomplish'd as you are. But what Demon, adverse to the Pleasure of Mankind, keeps you conceal'd in this Place, unknown to Mortals?' 'Tis my Misfortune, *reply'd the Princess*, that I have been kept here several Years.' 'Ah! Madam, *answer'd the Stranger*, if it is against your

Tyranny of the Fairies destroy'd. 197

' your Will that you are confin'd in this sweet
' Abode, you need but command whither I shall
' conduct you, and I'll do it at the Hazard of my
' Life, without asking any other Recompence than
' to spend the rest of my Days at your Feet.' ' No,
' generous Stranger, *answer'd* Philonice, I cannot
' accept of your obliging Offers: You cannot deli-
' ver me out of their cruel Hands; and I shall ex-
' pose you in vain to Danger. Only take care that
' they don't discover you; make haste to leave this
' Place while it is in your Power; take my Advice
' this Time, and fly, both for your own Repose
' and mine.' And after these Words she took *Elisa*
by the Arm, and went away. The Stranger could
not resolve to retire from that fatal Place till he
knew the Habitation of that beautiful Person; and
therefore follow'd her at a Distance, and saw her
go into her Pavilion. He gaz'd a long Time, and
observ'd the Place that contain'd the lovely Object
of his growing Passion; but fearing to be surpriz'd
by Day, he return'd the same Way he came, with-
out being perceiv'd by the Guards that were posted
about the Gardens.

The Princess all this Time had forgot the afflicted
Lady; The meeting with the Stranger employ'd her
Thoughts all Night, and Day appear'd, and she
had not closed her Eyes; the Generosity with
which he offer'd to free her from her Confinement,
had so fill'd her with Acknowledgment: In short,
a violent Passion had seiz'd on her Heart before she
was sensible of it. She spent all the Day as she
had done the Night, with an Uneasiness she was
quite a Stranger to; and when it was Night, *Elisa* put
her in mind of the Appointment she had made the
Night before; whither she led her, who all the
while seem'd regardless, till the Presence of the
afflicted Fair-one, whom she found with her dear
Dragon, rous'd her out of her Lethargy. She
made an Apology for her not coming according to
she promised; and then sitting down by her, begg

198 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

of her to gratify her Curiosity; which the Stranger did without further Intreaty in these Words:

‘ My Parents, *said she, addressing herself to Philo-*
 ‘ *nice*, held a considerable Rank in the Court of
 ‘ one of the most potent Princes in the World, and
 ‘ made it their greatest Pleasure to deserve by their
 ‘ Actions the Honour of being born his Subjects, a
 ‘ Happiness envy’d by all the World. Never King
 ‘ was better belov’d by Subjects, and more fear’d
 ‘ by his Enemies. Whenever he conquer’d new
 ‘ Provinces, he had no occasion to augment his
 ‘ Troops to keep them; for his new Subjects think-
 ‘ ing themselves happy under his Government, would
 ‘ sacrifice their Lives to support it. He is the Mas-
 ‘ ter of our Hearts as well as Fortunes, and the
 ‘ Pleasure and Terror of the World. He is always
 ‘ ready to reward, slow to punish, and easy to for-
 ‘ give. But whither does my Zeal for a Prince so
 ‘ worthy of Praise carry me, while I wrong his
 ‘ Worth by daring to speak of it? But to tell you
 ‘ my Story, Madam, *continued she*, my Mother had
 ‘ no other Child but myself, and named me *Cleonice*.
 ‘ I was educated with all possible Care, and my
 ‘ easy Disposition to learn what was taught me,
 ‘ made my Instructors take a Pleasure in me, and
 ‘ my Parents doat on me. My Mother was gene-
 ‘ rally at an Estate she had near to this fatal Place;
 ‘ and one Day, as she and I were walking abroad,
 ‘ she had a great Desire to consult a famous Astro-
 ‘ loger that liv’d hard by, in a solitary Cave, on
 ‘ my Fortune. Accordingly we went to him; and
 ‘ after he had cast my Nativity, he told us, That I
 ‘ should be very unhappy till a Princess, that Hea-
 ‘ ven had sent for the Good of Mankind, should
 ‘ come to destroy the Power of those Fairies, who
 ‘ under the Name of Fairies were the Terror of
 ‘ the whole World.

‘ We return’d very much dissatisfied with my
 ‘ *Horoscope*; and some Time after my Father enter-
 ‘ *tain’d Thoughts of marrying me to a Son of his Bro-*
 ‘ *ther’s*

Tyranny of the Fairies destroy'd. 199

ther's, who was a very handsome and accomplish'd young Lord. Tho' to be plain with you, our Inclinations had prevented the Choice of our Parents: We loved with great Tenderness, and were overjoy'd to receive their Commands to regard each other as two Persons that were shortly to be united. We waited impatiently for the happy Day, and when that came, thought nothing could disturb our Felicity. But, alas! how long did it last, and what deadly Sorrows have we since undergone! Scarce had we enjoy'd four Months together, but *Philoxipus*, my dear Husband, being inform'd that a monstrous Dragon laid all our Lands waste by the daily Murders he committed on Men and Beasts, order'd his Servants to be ready the next Morning, to go with him to assist his Tenants to kill this Monster. I did what I could to dissuade him against it; but all my Tears and Intreaties were to no Purpose. He went out by Break of Day; and notwithstanding he forbid me, I followed, and would attend him in that fatal Enterprize. We soon got to this Dragon's Den, which was in the Midst of a thick Forest; where our People letting fly their Arrows and Javelins, provok'd him so much, that he came towards *Philoxipus*, and with frightful Hissings and extended Wings flew upon him, when my Husband stepping backwards, and taking his Opportunity, pierced his Heart with his Sword; but at the same Time, oppress'd with the Monster's Weight, fell under him, and was cover'd all over with his venomous Blood. But, O Heavens! how great was my Surprise, when going towards my dear Husband, I saw him changed into the Shape of the same Monster he had destroy'd, and crawling on the Earth, bend his Course to this Place. I follow'd him with all his Tenants, who were all but me restrain'd by an invisible Power from entering these Gardens; and what's become of them since, I know not. For my Part, a Troop of Fairies receiv'd me with re

200 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

' rible Menaces, to revenge on us the Death of a
 ' Monster that was so dear to them ; and wirhout
 ' suffering me to see the innocent Victim of their
 ' Rage any more, forced me to go in that Pavilion
 ' you see, and there abandon'd me to my Despair.
 ' What Tears have I shed since that fatal Moment!
 ' At last the Fairy *Serpenta*, more sensible of Pity
 ' than her Sisters, compassionating my Misfortune,
 ' after four Years Imprisonment, allows me to be
 ' an Hour in a Night with the unfortunate *Philoxipus*,
 ' who spends his miserable Days under this Bush, in
 ' Expectation of the Time when he may mix his
 ' horrid Hissings with my Sighs. And if Death was
 ' in our Power, we should have put an End to our
 ' Misfortunes long ago, having no other Prospect
 ' but in the weak Hopes of the Astrologer's Predic-
 ' tion.'

Here *Cleonice* finish'd her Relation with a Torrent
 of Tears, that flow'd from her beautiful Eyes.
 ' How sensible I am of your Misfortunes, said Phi-
 ' lonice, embracing her, and how much I compassio-
 ' nate poor *Philoxipus* ! I wish it was in my Power
 ' to make you both happy ! It would be a Pleasure
 ' to me to see you in your former State of Blifs,
 ' and enjoy with you the Presence of your King,
 ' for whom, tho' I am not his Subject, you have in-
 ' spir'd me with Respect.' ' You are in all Things
 ' so obliging, Madam, reply'd *Cleonice*, that I know
 ' not how to return your Favours. But I must
 ' now, the Hour is almost expir'd, think of reti-
 ' ring ; otherwise *Serpenta*, displeas'd at my long
 ' Absence, will punish me severely.' The Princess
 told her, she should be sorry to increase her Mis-
 fortunes instead of asswaging them ; and after that
 they parted.

In the mean Time the Stranger found his Retinue
 again at Day-break, and went and lodg'd at a Village
 a small Distance from the Fairy Palace, in hopes of
 finding a Way into those Gardens, to see *Philonice*
 once more. With this Design, after Dinner, he

Tyranny of the Fairies destroy'd. 201

took Horse again, attended only by one Gentleman, and made a Tour round that enchanted Place. And knowing the Princess's Pavilion again, fetch'd a deep Sigh, and in a kind of Extasy cry'd out, 'Behold the Place which conceals the greatest Beauty in the World!' and then observed the most convenient Place for him to get in: And at Night, leaving his Servant with his Horses, to wait for him at a small Distance off, went thither directly, and got into the great Part that led to *Philonice's* Tent; but not daring to go into it, hid himself in a little Thicket hard by. He had not been there long before he saw *Elisa* and her come out, taking their Walk towards him. He went and met them with all Precipitation, and was at her Feet almost before she perceiv'd him. 'Why, said she, starting back, do you come again, to expose your self to those Misfortunes I told you of?' 'Alas! Madam, reply'd the Stranger, there are none so great to me as the being depriv'd of seeing you, after my Eyes had been once so much blest. Witness, ye divine Powers, how much I have endur'd since Yesterday: in the cruel Apprehensions of not finding you again! Therefore, charming Lady, envy me not the Pleasure of seeing you: My Love asks it with all Ardour, with which it inflames my Heart. Be not afraid I shall be discover'd, I have found out a safe Way; and if my Presence can be as pleasing to you, as yours is delightful to me, I may visit you every Night, and tell you all the Tenderness my violent Passion inspires me with. But, adorable Fair-one, you give me no Answer: Perhaps you did not hear what I said.' 'Indeed, reply'd the Princess, I am in so much Pain for fear we should be found here, and at the same Time so desirous to grant what you ask, that I know not what to do.' 'Hear me, said he, and banish all your Fears.' 'Well then, reply'd she, I must believe you.' And presenting him her Hand to raise him up, led him and *Elisa* to a little Box in the

midst of the Grove; and having shut the Door, they all three sat down on a crimson Velvet Carpet, where the Princess seem'd earnest to know who he was, and what brought him to that Abode of the Fairies.

The Stranger, to satisfy her, said his Name was *Anaxander*; that he was the Son of a most powerful Prince, who from his Infancy had design'd to marry him to a Daughter of his own Sister, who had married a neighbouring Prince; and that while they were treating about this Alliance, the young Princess was taken away as she was walking out with her Mother. 'Alas! cry'd *Philonice*, *no longer able to conceal her self*, you now behold that unhappy Princess, whom the Fairies forced away from her Mother, and transported hither, without ever informing me what they design to do with me.' 'How! answer'd *Anaxander*, *in Amazement*, are you the *Philonice* design'd for me, for the Loss of whom I have griev'd so much?' 'Yes, undoubtedly I am, reply'd the Princess.' 'Ah! then, my Princess, I am not surprized at the Effect you had upon my Heart the first Time I saw you. None but the adorable *Philonice* could have wounded it so deeply; and certainly the Gods, the Protectors of my Ancestors, conducted me hither, that I might enjoy the Pleasure of seeing and adoring you.' 'I was as much embarrass'd as you, answer'd *Philonice*, *blushing*, at the Esteem which I could not help entertaining for a Man I had never beheld before; so much the Nearness of Blood spoke in my Heart.' 'Ah! Madam, said the Prince, that's cruel not to let me think it the Effect of Inclination.' 'That we'll talk of another Time, said the Princess *smiling*. But tell me some News of my Mother.' 'The Princess your Mother, said *Anaxander*, in despair for losing you is not to be comforted, tho' it is so long since you have been away, but leads a very melancholy Life. And for my Part, Madam, continued he, seeing that my Father, when all

Europe

Tyranny of the Fairies destroy'd. 203

‘ *Europe* besides was in War, liv’d in Peace, I got
‘ his Leave to make a Campaign with a neighbour-
‘ ing Prince. With this Intent I left my Father’s
‘ Dominions, and crossing this Kingdom, arriv’d that
‘ Night that you found me on the *Tarras* in a large
‘ Forest, abounding with an hundred different
‘ Tracks, that led as many several Ways ; and I
‘ riding faster than my Attendants, and they taking
‘ a wrong Road, were separated from me ; which
‘ I knew nothing of till Night had overtaken me.
‘ But perceiving by the Moon-light a Gate unguard-
‘ ed, I alit from off my Horse, tied him to a Tree,
‘ and came into these Gardens, the Beauties of
‘ which ravish’d my Senses. I admir’d a long Time
‘ from off the *Tarras* the Varieties of the Valley,
‘ and at length, weary with my Journey, laid me
‘ down, and fell asleep. But, O Heavens ! how a-
‘ greeably was I awakened by your Presence, and
‘ concern’d when you left me ! I was resolv’d to see
‘ you again, whatever the Consequence might be :
‘ I follow’d you to your Tent, and afterwards re-
‘ tiring found my Attendants.

‘ From that Moment my Thoughts were employ’d
‘ about seeking you out, and, Thanks to my good
‘ Fortune, I have found you ; and nothing now is
‘ wanting to compleat my Happiness, if my adora-
‘ ble Princess will but listen to me favourably :
‘ Consider, too-charming *Philonice*, how much you
‘ are oblig’d to it, both by the Will of your Pa-
‘ rents, who destin’d us for each other from our In-
‘ fancy, and that of the Gods, who seem to explain
‘ themselves by this miraculous Meeting ; and sure
‘ my ardent Passion may merit some Return.’

‘ I own, *reply’d Philonice*, that my Mother com-
‘ manded me to receive you as a Man design’d for
‘ my Husband. But, Prince, my Fortune is much
‘ alter’d : I depend no longer on a tender Mother ;
‘ I am in the Power of Fairies, who will not let
‘ me follow the Dictates of my own Inclination.
‘ Should I answer your Tenderness, you would be

264 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

‘but the more unhappy. Think rather of forgetting me: Follow the first Design that brought you hither, and come no more into this unfortunate Abode.’ ‘How can my Princess believe, *reply’d the Prince*, that I am able to follow the Advice you give me, to leave you, and forget you? No, my dear *Philonice*, think not that I have any other Business but to see and adore you. ‘Tis in vain for you to endeavour to fright me with the Power of the Fairies: They cannot hinder me from seeing you, if you permit me. You need but meet me every Evening in this Grove with that lovely Maiden, *pointing to Elisa*, and take no further Care for me: I can conceal my self from the Eyes of all the World, if you suffer me but sometimes to gaze on yours.’ ‘You shall resolve on that to-morrow at this Time, *reply’d Elisa, finding that Philonice made no Answer*; for it is Time we retire to-night, for fear our Conduct should be suspected. What’s that you have engaged for us, *Elisa?* said *the Princess suddenly*.’ ‘Ah! Madam, *interrupted the Prince*, don’t refuse me the Favour the Charming *Elisa* grants me: If you do, I cannot leave this Place, whatever Misfortunes may happen.’ ‘Well, then, *said Philonice*, let to-morrow be the last Time.’ After these Words she left *Anaxander*, who durst not reply; but leaving the deferring of so cruel a Sentence to the next Day, went to find his Gentleman and Horses.

On the other hand, the Fairy *Serpenta* met *Philonice* going to her Pavilion, and ask’d her, where she had been so late? The young Princess at first trembled at the Severity of the Manner she spoke to her; but soon recovering herself, told her, she had met with *Cleonice*, whose Afflictions rais’d in her so much Compassion, that she should not resolve to leave that miserable Lady sooner. After that, she told her *Cleonice*’s whole Story, and pursuing the Discourse, desired her not to take it ill, if she spent her Evenings with that unhappy Person.

Tyranny of the Fairies destroy'd 205

son. *Serpenta*, touch'd with the Misfortunes of *Cleonice*, gave her Consent, provided she took care not to let any of her Sisters see her. *Philonice* thank'd the Fairy, and bidding her good-night, went to bed, but not without some Discourse with *Elisa* about the Fright they were in. The next Day they spent in contriving how to keep the Prince from being discover'd; for they were apprehensive lest he should be met by some of those Fairies, either when he was coming into, or going out of those Gardens; and at last they concluded, that they must never see him again, or keep him in an Arbour, or the little Hut in the Grove. After they had concerted these Measures, they went in the Evening to the Place of Rendezvous, where they found *Anaxander*, to whom the Princess told the Fright she had been in, meeting *Serpenta*; and then took an Opportunity to tell him, that they must no longer run the Hazard of being discover'd, and he must come no more unto so dangerous a Place.

Anaxander harken'd to this Discourse with Impatience; and as soon as she had done speaking, said, 'I see very well, Madam, that you repent of the Favours you have shewn me; that you, insensible of the Miseries I shall endure by not seeing you, would abandon me to the most terrible Affliction. Yes, cruel Maid, you may deprive me of the Liberty of seeing you; but cannot hinder me from inhabiting the same Places you do, from breathing the same Air, and seeing you sometimes pass by me: Perhaps *Elisa* will not be so hard-hearted, she will hear my Complaints, and receive my last Sighs.' 'The Princess, reply'd *Elisa*, with a Simplicity with which the Prince was very much pleas'd, is so far from not having a Design to see you, that we have resolv'd, that you shall not stir out of this Grove: I'll take upon my self the Care of furnishing you with whatever is necessary for the Support of Life, and we will come and visit you as often as we

206 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

'can.' 'Ah! *reply'd* Anaxander, how much am I obliged to you, my dear *Elisa*, for giving me this Proof of *Philonice's* Kindness! And how, lovely Princess, could you talk to me in so cruel a Manner? What, had you a Mind to make trial of my Tenderness, and to see if your Presence was dear to me?' 'Indeed, *said* *Philonice*, I am so much concern'd for fear of being found out, that I no sooner resolve on a Thing, but I presently repent of it. The Idea of the implacable Rage of the Fairies, which is always present in my Thoughts, frightens me so much, that I fancy every Moment, that you are a Wolf, Lion, or some other terrible Creature, and that I am following you as the melancholy *Cleonic* does her dear Dragon.' 'Now my Princess, *cry'd* Anaxander, the Fairies may do what they will with me; after those Words pronounced from your fair Mouth, Death itself is welcome.' 'Indeed, *said the Princess blushing*, those Words have escaped my Lips, before I was aware; but since my Heart hath express'd itself with so much Tenderness, I repent not, if you will but deserve those advantageous Sentiments.'

Anaxander swore a thousand Times to his beloved *Philonice* to adore her always with the same Ardour, whatever Difficulties might arise in the Pursuit of his Passion. After this they resolved, that he should stay some Days in the Summer-house in the Grove; and for fear *Cleonic*, not being inform'd that she had told *Serpenta* she was her Sister, should let a Word slip, *Philonice* went to her, and return'd to call on *Elisa*, whom she left with the Prince, from whom they soon parted, and retired to their Tent, where having no Desire to sleep, they enter'd into a Conversation relating to whatever had happen'd.

Among all the living Creatures that the Fairy *Serpenta* had given the Princess, there was an Ape, that had been a young beautiful Lady, and one of

Tyranny of the Fairies destroy'd. 207

a pleasant Wit, but malicious, and above all, excell'd in mimicking. It happen'd one Day, as this Lady was walking out with some of her Companions, she saw at a Distance an old Woman coming towards them, who had something so indolent and slow in her Motion, that she took a Distaste against her, and imitated her so well, that she set all the Company a laughing; tho' it proved to her own Cost. The old Woman, who was one of the Fairies of this Place, to punish her, changed her immediately into an Ape, and transported her to this new Abode; where, under that new Form, she still preserved her natural envious and malicious Temper; and when the Fairy *Serpenta* made a Present of her to the Princess, she order'd her to observe every Thing she did, and gave her the Liberty of her Speech when she had any Thing to tell her.

This mischievous Ape had conceived a mortal Hatred against *Philonice*, and waited with Impatience for an Opportunity to exercise her Tongue; and having heard the Princess's and *Elisa*'s Conversation, she thought she had enough to satisfy her Malice. As soon as she saw the Fairy *Serpenta* come into the Tent the next Day, she made a Sign to her, that she wanted to speak to her, upon which the Fairy went to her; and she told her that she knew a great deal, but could not tell her before *Philonice*. The Fairy told her she would come again in the Evening, when the Princess was gone out: but bid her be sure not to tell her any Lyes, for if she did, she would punish her more severely than her Sister had done.

When it was Night, *Elisa* carry'd the Prince something to eat, and the Princess went to the Grove of Citrons; and the Fairy in the mean Time, curious to know what the Ape had to say, went directly to the Pavilion, where that mischievous Imp gave her an Account of all she had heard those young Creatures talk of, and told her, that she saw *Elisa* loaded with Eatables, which she told
Philoni

208 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

Philonice she was going to carry to a Prince. Away went the Fairy at this News to the Citron Grove, very much inrag'd against the Princess, to see if the Ape spoke Truth, and determin'd to find out the Mystery; and just as she had parted from *Cleonice*, found her, and follow'd her to the Summer-House in the Grove. There she was soon inform'd of what she wanted to know; for the Prince no sooner saw *Philonice*, but he told her he was ready to die with Impatience to see her again; that he could not live under that hard Restraint; and that if she had any Kindness for him, she would consent that he should deliver her from those barbarous Furies, and conduct her to her Mother, who had languish'd many Years for the Grief of losing her. 'For my Part, said *Elisa*, I think you ought not to refuse to follow a Prince, who was destin'd for you, by those who had a Right of disposing of you, since he promises to deliver you from this Confinement, and carry you to your Mother.' But *Elisa*, reply'd *Philonice*, do you think that I doat so much upon this unhappy Abode, and that I would not accept of *Anaxander's* Proposals, if I thought them feasible?' 'Ah! cruel Fair, interrupted the Prince, 'tis only your Unwillingness renders them impossible; I have vainly flatter'd myself with having a Part in your Heart; you have sucked in with Time the Barbarity of these Devils in the Shapes of Women, and with Joy will behold my Death, since you will not consent to my just Proposals.' 'Well then, said the Princess, I'll follow you, whatever happens; but when the Thunder falls upon you, remember that it will not be in my Power to secure you.'

The Fairy could not bear this Discourse any longer, but appeared as the Princess had done speaking, who, as well as *Elisa*, was ready to die with Fear. 'What could make thee so bold, audacious Youth, said she, addressing herself to *Anaxander*, to come to this Place without our Leave, and

Tyranny of the Fairies destroy'd. 209

‘ and to be so vain, as to think to take this Princess
‘ away from us? Dost thou believe that we have
‘ educated her with so much Care for thee?
‘ Notwithstanding all thy fine Projects, thou shalt
‘ never see her more; therefore be gone immediately,
‘ for fear I punish thee more severely.’
‘ Alas! cruel Fairy, *replied* Anaxander, what Punishment
‘ can be so horrible, as to deprive me of
‘ the Sight of my Princess? If ever you have been
‘ sensible of Pity, shew it now, by favouring two
‘ Hearts united by Love, and restoring me *Philonice*.’
‘ I own, *reply'd the Fairy*, if I was Mistress of that
‘ Princess's Fate, I would grant you what you desire;
‘ for my Heart, more inclinable to Pity than
‘ to punish, would easily forgive thee a Crime,
‘ of which Love made thee guilty: But, *Anaxander*,
‘ I am only the Princess's Guardian; she is a Trust
‘ reposed in me by my Sister, and I must take a
‘ special Care of what they commit to my Charge;
‘ therefore once more, I say, retire, and leave this
‘ Princess in quiet, if thou wouldst not create her
‘ new Misfortunes.’

‘ Take no care of me, Madam, *reply'd Philonice*,
‘ *embolden'd by the Fairy's Goodness*, if you deprive me
‘ of seeing *Anaxander*.’ ‘ But *Philonice*, *answer'd the*
‘ *Fairy*, don't you dread my Anger, when you make
‘ so open a Confession; what's become of that Obedience
‘ you promised to shew to my Will?’ ‘ I
‘ confess, Madam, *reply'd the Princess*, I deserve all
‘ your Anger; I acknowledge my Fault, but cannot
‘ repent: The Commands of a Mother I love,
‘ and my Inclination, which attaches me to this
‘ Prince, may, perhaps, stand for a sufficient Excuse
‘ to you, if you would but follow the Dictates of
‘ your own Heart. Ah! Madam, all the unfortunate
‘ Persons in this Place have found the Effects
‘ of your Compassion; and shall I be the only unhappy
‘ Person among them?’ ‘ It is not in my
‘ Power, *said the Fairy*, to give you to this Prince,
‘ *since you are design'd for another*.’ ‘ How, cry'
‘ Pp

210 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

‘ *Philonice*, design’d for another! No, Madam, that’s in vain; you may inflict on me the most cruel Punishments, but cannot be Mistress of my Will.’ ‘ Ah! my dear Princess, said *Anaxander*, how much am I obliged to you for so much Goodness? ’Tis I, my Princess, who must deliver you from this Tyranny, and will punish with Death the Person for whom they design you, were he guarded by all the Furies; for no Person shall possess *Philonice*, and I live.’ ‘ Alas! said *Elisa*, who had not yet spoke, these Menaces only provoke the good Fairy; rather implore her powerful Aid, she expects only your Obedience to allay your Misfortunes. If she cannot render you altogether happy, yet her Heart is not void of Emotions of Tenderness for that charming Princess; make use of it, and depend upon my Word, you will not be long insensible of the Effects of her Compassion.’ ‘ Farewel, *Anaxander*, said *Philonice*, *holding out her Hands*; let us believe *Elisa*, and yield to our Fate, since we cannot do otherwise.’ The Prince took hold of the Princess’s Hand, and kiss’d it in so great a Transport, that he had almost quite disarm’d *Serpenta*; who, that they might not perceive her Sentiments, which she endeavour’d to conceal as much as possible, pulled *Philonice* by the Arm very roughly, and made her go into her Tent, leaving the poor Prince in the most deplorable State imaginable. He follow’d his dear Princess with his Eyes as far as he could, when *Elisa* made a Sign to him to stay where he was, and she would come and bring him some News.

In the mean Time, the Fairy *Serpenta* shut *Philonice* into her Tent, with Orders not to stir out till she came again; and without saying what she further resolv’d to do, left her. But, O Heaven! how miserable was that poor Princess’s Condition! *Elisa* could not comfort her in the least, the Imagination only of being married to some Monster, put her into so horrid a Despair, that she could scarce

Tyranny of the Fairies destroy'd. 211

scarce breathe for sighing and sobbing, and in that melancholy Manner spent the whole Night. As soon as it was Day, the Fairy came into her Room ;
‘ *Philonice, said she*, I have done what I could to get
‘ my Sisters to consent to give you your Liberty :
‘ I have boasted of your Lover’s Merit, and told
‘ them, that it was a good Action to restore a Princess to her Mother, and to endow you with all
‘ the Gifts that lay in our Power ; that you had never displeas’d us, and it was unjust to force a
‘ Princess to stay with us against her Inclination :
‘ But all my Remonstrances were in vain. They
‘ told me, they had taken you away on Purpose to
‘ bestow you upon the King of Monsters, and order’d me to prepare you for it.” ‘ Alas ! Madam,
‘ *said Philonice*, you shall sooner prepare me for
‘ Death, than that fatal Marriage ! What will become of poor *Anaxander*, if he never sees me more !” ‘ I can let you see that Prince again, *reply’d the Fairy* ; but as it is not in my Power to bestow you upon him, that Indulgence will but
‘ make you the more miserable ; therefore resolve sooner to obey my Sisters, than to love a Prince whose you can never be, while we have Power.”
‘ Sure, *cry’d Philonice*, it cannot last long ; for Heaven, wearied with so much Injustice, will not
‘ always abandon unhappy Mortals to the cruel Tyranny of your barbarous Sisters. I see, I see,
‘ *cry’d she in a prophetick Manner*, that adorable Princess promised by the Gods, coming to lose our
‘ Chains, and reduce your Sisters Power only to find out new Inventions to imbellish this Place :
‘ Methinks I behold those Furies turning great
‘ Wheels in a River hard by, to furnish this enchanted Palace and Gardens with Water ; and by
‘ their bitter Yells and Cries, more horrible than
‘ those of the unfortunate Persons they changed
‘ into wild Beasts, they make all that pass by think
‘ Hell broken loose. But for you, Madam, *continuu*
‘ *the Princess*, who never consented to the Misch

212 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

‘ your wicked Sisters have done in the World, you
 ‘ shall not be one of their Number; the Princess
 ‘ knows as well how to reward as punish. She will
 ‘ distinguish you from the rest, by committing these
 ‘ beautiful Gardens to your Care, where you will
 ‘ enjoy the Happiness of her august Presence, and
 ‘ be caref’d by her, while your Sisters repent, but
 ‘ too late, of all their Cruelties.’

Serpenta hearken’d to this Discourse of the Princess’s with Amazement, and was sensible she was inspired by some Divinity, because that Prophecy was writ at the Beginning of their Empire; but that there was no other Mention made of the Time, but that it should come to pass in the Reign of a most powerful and victorious Prince, and tho’ they saw that Prince perform the most surprizing Things, and obtain the greatest Victories, yet they still flatter’d themselves, he was not the Person meant by the Oracle, and that that Day whereon a Princess should be born, who would prove fatal to their Empire, was not yet arriv’d. But the Fairy finding all these Things confirm’d by *Philonice*, perceiv’d that their Ruin was nigh at hand, and resolv’d to inform her Sisters of it, that they might consult how to avoid the impending Danger; but in the mean Time, told the Princess, that she did not take her Words for a Prophecy, but rather looked upon them as the Effect of her Rage, telling her, that their Power had been of long Continuance, and would last to the End of the World. After that she promised to use her utmost Endeavours to make her happy, and assured her, that if she could not obtain any Thing of her Sisters, that while she was under her Care, she would give her the Opportunity of seeing the Prince; and then left her, to go and acquaint the other Fairies with what had happen’d, who were all frighten’d; and the more, because the Fairy *Envy* told them, that having a Mind to change a Prince that had displeas’d her into a Bear, she could not do it. The Fairy *Rancour* also
 com-

Tyranny of the Fairies destroy'd. 213

complain'd, that she could not do all the Mischief she wish'd; and in short, in their Fear for the Destruction of their Empire, they consulted their Magick Book, and found *Philonice's* Prophecy to be very true. Inraged at their hard Fate, which they saw draw so nigh, they redoubled their Cruelties, of which *Philonice*, we may believe, had her Share. They immediately sent *Serpenta* for her, and loading her with Injuries, told her she must prepare to marry the Husband they had provided for her the next Day; and order'd *Serpenta* to shew her her Spouse in the Icy Hall.

The Fairy, for fear of provoking her Sisters more, took the Princess by the Hand, and carried her into the Hall, where the Prince of Monsters waited for her. He was like the *Polyphemus* of the Poets, but he had a Hog's Snout, which render'd his Voice so very terrible, that poor *Philonice* was ready to die away with Fear, when he ask'd her if she would consent to marry him. And when the Princess with Tears told him, she would prefer Death a thousand Times before him, the Monster, without being the least moved by them, no more than the hateful Fairies before him, told her she must make him amends for the Torments he had endured, and think soon of obeying him; and then went from her without the least Emotion of Pity. *Serpenta* carried her back again to her Tent, more like a dead Corpse than a living Person; and not knowing how to comfort her, convey'd the Prince to her in a thick Cloud, and dissolving that Vapour, led him close to her, saying, 'I have brought *Anaxander* here to you, consort your Measures together.' And then left them.

The Prince was transported with Joy to see his Princess again; but could not guess what made her so insensible of all his endearing Expressions, and to be in Tears. *Elisa* bore her company in this Melancholy, insomuch that he could not get one Word out of either of them. 'Why, my Princess, sai

214 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

Anaxander, will you not tell me the Cause of
 those Tears? I flatter'd myself, that my Presence
 might have somewhat allay'd your Misfortunes;
 and that the Pleasure of knowing all the Love
 you have inspir'd me with, might suspend your
 Grief: Do you believe that I am less concern'd?
 Yet charm'd at the Opportunity I have of swear-
 ing an eternal Constancy to you, whatever I must
 suffer to deserve you, still the Joy of seeing you
 again out-balances all my Sorrows; and if you
 loved me, *Philonice*. with the same Passion I do you,
 my Presence would have the same Effect on your
 Heart.' Ah! cruel Prince, *reply'd the Princess*,
 do not compleat my Misery by your Reproaches;
 you know but too well the Value I have for you,
 but are ignorant of all our Misfortunes. The
 Fairy *Serpenta* would have had her barbarous Sis-
 ters consented to our Happiness; but they inflexi-
 ble to her Entreaties, are resolved to give me to
 a frightful Monster, whom they acknowledge for
 their King; and can you now want to know the
 Cause of my crying; Ah! my dear *Anaxander*,
 the Source will be dryed up, and these hellish
 Furies feeding on my Tears, will not let me put
 an End to them by Death. The compassionate
Serpenta has told me she can do no more for us,
 than to give us the sad Pleasure of complaining
 together for the last Time.' Ah! Madam, *cry'd*
the Prince, you will not deserve all her Favours, if
 you don't make a right Use of them: I know
 very well the Meaning of her last Words, and the
 Misfortunes prepared for us. Did not she say, I
 will go and fetch the Prince, that you may con-
 cert your Measures with him? What do you think,
 Madam, are the Measures I shall advise you to
 take? Can you believe that she, knowing my Love
 for you, hopes I will persuade you to give your
 self to the King of Monsters? No, Madam, she
means, that you should follow the Advice I gave
 you in the Summer-House in the Grove; and that
 while

Tyranny of the Fairies destroy'd. 215

‘ while you are free, and your Keeper opens the
 ‘ Prison-Doors, you should go away ; have a care
 ‘ that it is not too late ; make use of those precious
 ‘ Moments given you ; they quickly glide away,
 ‘ and will never come again.’ ‘ Alas ! Madam, *said*
 ‘ *Elisa, seeing the Princess unresolv’d what to do, why*
 ‘ do you stay here ? The Fairy will undoubtedly
 ‘ conceal us in our Flight, and we shall meet with
 ‘ no Obstacle in our Way to the Princess your Mo-
 ‘ ther.’ ‘ Alas ! how vainly do you flatter your-
 ‘ self ! *reply’d the disconsolate Princess, to believe it so*
 ‘ easy a Matter to avoid the ill Fate which pursues
 ‘ me.’ ‘ But, *said Elisa, can you be more unhappy,*
 ‘ and what Risque do you run in taking our Ad-
 ‘ vice ?’ ‘ Well then, *said the Princess, let us go ;*
 ‘ but yet remember, *Anaxander, that I am doing*
 ‘ what I should not do, in taking you for my
 ‘ Guide.’ ‘ You shall have no Cause, Madam, *re-*
 ‘ *ply’d the Prince, to complain : Love shall be respon-*
 ‘ *sible for all.*’

After this Discourse, *Elisa* went and fetch’d what Jewels they had ; and they all three went out of the Pavilion, to hide themselves in the Grove till Night ; but were very much surprized to see themselves surrounded by the same thick Cloud which concealed the Prince ; and not doubting but that *Serpenta* favour’d their Retreat, and having no Occasion to wait till Night, follow’d *Anaxander*, who pursued his old Path. When it was dark, and they were got out of Sight of the Gardens, the Fairy *Serpenta* came to them, and order’d them to travel always by Night, and to make all the haste they could into their own Territories, assuring them, that as soon as they were within them, they were out of the Fairies Power ; and of all Things to beware of Day-light.

After this kind Advice the Fairy took her Leave, and they went forward ; and the Prince soon after perceiving a great Number of Horsemen making towards them, began to be under some Apprehen-
sic

216 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

sions, but that Fear was soon removed, when he found them to be his Gentleman and Attendants, who told him, they were sent to meet him by a Man who brought a Letter from him, which they were all sensible was another Mark of the Fairy's Care. They all immediately mounted Horses, and leaving the great Road, went before Day-break to the first Habitation they found, where the Prince, for fear *Philonice's* Beauty might discover them, obliged her and *Elisa* to put on Man's Apparel. At Night they took Horse again, and travelled with all Expedition possible; and this they did throughout their Journey, the Princess's Desire making her support the Fatigue with great Resolution, tho' at the same Time *Anaxander* was in great Pain for his dear *Philonice*, lest she should fall sick.

In this Manner they got within a Night's Journey of Home. The Hopes of being in Safety gave new Life to the whole Troop. Never were any People more gay and merry; they could talk of nothing but the Happiness they should enjoy. 'What a Pleasure will it be to me, *said the Princess*, to see my Mother again! O Heavens! how charmingly shall we spend our Days! I see already the Beacons; in a little Time we shall be out of Danger.' 'Would to Heaven we were, *reply'd Elisa*; but methinks I hear some Noise behind us; too desirous of reaching home, we have travelled too late, for see Day appears; and that was forbid us by *Serpenta*. Hereupon the Prince listening, and hearing a great Noise of Men and Horses, began to be uneasy, and made the Princess and *Elisa* go somewhat before with some of his Retinue to defend them, while the rest stay'd with him. *Philonice* would not leave him; but upon his Protestations to overtake her as soon as he knew who they were, she at last consented. But before she had got far, the Prince perceived a great Body of monstrous Men, and the King of Monsters at their Head, who having been informed of *Philonice's* Escape,

had

Tyranny of the Fairies destroy'd. 217

had pursued her with all Haste, to punish her for slighting his Alliance, with the Fairy *Rancour* on one Side of him, exasperating him against that beautiful Princess.

As soon as the Prince saw this frightful Troop, he put himself into a Posture of Defence; which the Fairy *Rancour* observing, advanced first. ' See there, *said she to the King of Monsters, Philonice's* Lover, whom my Sister *Serpenta* would have persuaded us to prefer before you; be a Witness of the Revenge I'll take of him.' In saying these Words, she touch'd *Anaxander* with her Wand, but all in vain, her Magick had no Force, and the Prince was never the less able to fight with those Monsters, who, tho' they had Boars Heads, yet their Bodies were of human Shape. The Fairy swelling with Rage, left the Prince instantly, venting a thousand Curses upon him, and flew directly after the Princess, who she knew was gone before, and overtook her, when she thought she had nothing to fear; and catching hold of her delicate Hair, lifted her up into the Air; and returning back with her to the Place where *Anaxander* was fighting with that monstrous Troop, stopp'd just over his Head, and raising her Voice, cry'd out, ' See, Prince, my Power is not always restrain'd; forbear that unprofitable Combat, the Delivery of this fugitive Princess out of my Hands will be a more glorious Enterprize for you: And you, Prince of Monsters, *continued she*, leave that unhappy Wretch, your Revenge will be greater in giving him his Life, than by putting an End to his Misfortunes by a speedy Death.'

Upon these Words the Fight immediately ceased for the Prince at the Sight of *Philonice* fell into a Swoon, with the Grief of not being able to assist her; and when he came to himself again, saw not one of the Monsters, who all went away as soon as they saw that the Fairy *Rancour* had

218 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

Philonice in her Power. She transported her back to the Fairy Abode, and carrying her into a vaulted Hall of their Palace, where all the Fairies were assembled together; 'Behold here, Sisters, said *Rancour*, that guilty Fugitive, who left us to follow a rash Youth, whom I have punish'd for his Insolence; she must be made an Example of, that all who shall dare to displease us, may tremble at the mentioning of her Punishment.' 'We leave her to you, answer'd all the Fairies, she is your Prize, and you may revenge your self of that ungrateful Princess.' 'That Task should be mine, said the *King of Monsters*: I pretend to be Master of her Fate, since you gave her me when she was twelve Years old.' The Fairies agreed that the King was in the Right, and that they could not dispose of the Princess. *Rancour* consented with Reluctancy, tho' with the Hopes that the Prince of Monsters would be as cruel as herself. In short, the poor Victim was deliver'd to him; and he, without being in the least moved with her Tears and Complaints, hurried her away to a frightful Den, where he told her, if she would marry him, he would forgive her Flight, and make her the Queen of Monsters, and Mistress of all his Treasures. The Princess told him, that the only Thing that could induce her to accept of such a Proposition, would be to find out a Way to deliver her self of him; and therefore desired him to be satisfy'd with making her as miserable as he could, without her own Consent. 'Well then, said he, since thou wilt be so, thou shalt:' and with that carrying her down Steps below that frightful Den, and opening a Gate, shew'd her a large grassy Plain, water'd by a clear Brook, and bounded by a Rock, to which he fasten'd her by a long Chain, and driving some Monsters of all Kinds out of his Stables, told her, That since she would not be their Queen, she must be their Shepherdess; and that

Tyranny of the Fairies destroy'd. 219

to have them at her Command; she needed but to touch them with a Crook he gave her; and afterwards left this poor unhappy Princess so frightened, that she would have rais'd Pity in a Heart of Stone; who, whenever she saw those Creatures coming near, she cry'd and shriek'd out, and keeping close to the Rock, made use of her Crook to put them off.

In the mean Time, the unhappy *Anaxander* was in the utmost Despair, not knowing which Way to follow his *Philonice*; when *Elisa* returning as soon as the Princess was taken from her, came to him. 'Ah! my dear *Elisa*, said he, where shall I find my Princess again?' 'Without doubt, said *Elisa*, she is carried back again to the Fairy Abode, and perhaps, by the Means of the Fairy *Serpenta*, I may see her, and let her know that you surviv'd the Combat with the Monsters.' 'Alas! said the Prince, certainly it had been better that I had died, than to live incapable of serving *Philonice*.' 'Follow me, reply'd *Elisa*, and I hope we may once more see that lovely Princess.' After this they clapp'd Spurs to their Horses, and with an incredible Speed reach'd the Fairy Abode in a few Days; and when it was Night, went by the old Way into the Gardens, where they found *Serpenta*, who told *Anaxander*, that her barbarous Sisters, as soon as *Rancour* had deliver'd *Philonice* into their cruel Hands, gave her to the King of Monsters. 'Ah! compassionate Fairy, cry'd the Prince, can you let so charming a Person suffer? And will you not afford me the Means of dying at her Feet, if I cannot free her from her unhappy Fate.' 'It is not in my Power to change her Destiny, said the Fairy, nor in yours; but the Time will come when she shall be happy. All that I can do for you now, is to conduct you and *Elisa* to the Place where she passes away her tedious Days, in the Shape of some Monster, for fear the King of that subterraneous Abode should know

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‘ know you.’ Whereupon touching them with her Wand, they immediately became Centaurs ; and then giving them a certain Herb, of which they needed but to taste to recover their former Shapes, went with them to the Plain of Monsters, where the unfortunate *Philonice* watch’d her terrible Flock Night and Day. There at Day-Break they found the Princess laid on the Rock, with her Crook in one Hand, and her Head leaning on the other, while Tears trickled down from her Eyes upon her tender Breasts, which were half naked. The Noise they made awaken’d her, and up she started, thinking they were some new Monsters ; when the Prince, to remove her Fears, said, ‘ Since, Divine Princess, none but Monsters are suffer’d to approach you, be not surpriz’d that *Elisa* and I appear under this horrible Form, for nothing is impossible to Love and Friendship, when join’d. The Fairy *Serpenta*, according to her usual Compassion, hath transform’d us into this Shape, to give us the Pleasure of passing away our Time with you.’ ‘ Alas, *Anaxander*, answer’d the Princess, after recovering her Surprise, what Demon, an Enemy to your Lives, hath conducted you and *Elisa* here ? Were not my Miseries great enough before, but you must add to them ? The Fear lest you should be discover’d by the Tyrant, under whose Power I live, and by the most cruel Punishments, pay dear for the Pleasure of seeing me. Ah ! my dear *Elisa*, continued she, if you love me, carry the Prince back again, and do not by your Imprudence make me be the Cause of his Death.’ ‘ Entertain no Fears for the charming *Elisa* and me, reply’d *Anaxander* ; for when we tell you that the Fairy *Serpenta* brought us hither, you need not be under any Apprehensions.’

By this Time the Sun began to rise, and the monstrous Flock to rouse themselves with terrible Roarings and Howlings, which so frighten’d *Elisa*, who

Tyranny of the Fairies destroy'd. 221

who had not been us'd to them, that she ran on the other Side of the Rock, and finding it hollow, went precipitately into it, but was very much amazed to find a Chamber hung with Mourning, lighted by two Chrystal Lamps, and in the Middle of it a young Lady in Black, who seem'd, notwithstanding the Tears that trickled down her Cheeks, to be very beautiful, set by a black Coffin. The Surprize she was in at this unexpected Sight, made her shriek out so loud, that the Prince and Princess, who were following her, but were a great Way off, heard her, and made all the Haste they could after her. The Presence of the Princess disengaged the afflicted Lady from performing what she was about; and endeavouring to dry up her Tears, which hinder'd her from speaking, she, addressing herself to *Philonice*, said, 'What unhappy Fate brings you hither? Is it Chance, or the Barbarians that inhabit this Place, that force you to come and mingle Tears with me.' 'The Destiny, Madam, reply'd the Princess, that constrains you, obliges us to inhabit this hellish Place; therefore if your Grief can be asswaged by the Company of Persons as miserable as your self, we offer you that sad Comfort.' 'My Grief, answer'd the Stranger is of that Nature, that it can never have an End; for the most perfect Workmanship of the Gods, and all that my Soul took Delight in, is inclosed within this Coffin, and I pass away my Days in giving him an Assistance in vain: I perceive, said she, seeing that *Philonice* was amazed at her last Words, that you don't comprehend that the Person for whom I grieve can stand in need of my Assistance, after having told you he is in this Coffin; but, Madam, that you may be the better inform'd of this Adventure, I will tell you the Occasion of my Punishments, which renews my Sorrows.'

222 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

As the Princess was about to answer her, a complaining Voice which she heard from the Coffin, stopp'd her. The Stranger, redoubling her Tears, made incredible Efforts to open it, and *Philonice*, the Prince, and *Elisa*, used all their Endeavours to help her. 'Trouble not yourselves in vain, *said the Voice*, let me fulfil my Fate in this melancholy Tomb; a Day will come, which is not far off, when I shall behold the Light again, and tell you, my dear *Melicerta*, that the cold icy Grave cannot affect my Love; till then, rejoice for the Comfort Heaven has sent you in the Presence of a Prince and Princess as unhappy as thyself.'

After these Words the Voice was heard no more, and *Melicerta*, throwing her Arms about *Philonice's* Neck, said, 'Ah! how blest, Madam am I in your Presence, to hear my Husband promise a more happy Time, and to hope to see him once again: But is not this a Dream, *reply'd she*, falling down on a Couch from which she had risen; certainly my Senses, disturbed by the Length of my Misfortunes, make me believe Impossibilities.' 'No, Madam, *said Philonice*, you are not deceived in what you heard, we heard the same; and Heaven, undoubtedly, weary with the Punishments inflicted on so many innocent Persons, will send us Succours proportionable to our Miseries; and this is not only declared by the Dead, but foretold by the Living.' 'Ah! Madam, *said Melicerta*, how much am I oblig'd to you, for confirming what I durst not believe! But where is that Prince, *said she*, looking about her, my Husband spoke of? Can this obliging Centaur, who was so kind to endeavour to assist my poor *Uphidamentus*, be him? Yes, Madam, *said Anaxander*, I am he, tho' forc'd by my perverse Fate to appear under this extraordinary Figure.' 'I must own, *said Melicerta*, that I see very surprizing Things, and cannot help
' having

Tyranny of the Fairies destroy'd. 223

' having a Curiosity to know your Adventures, since
 ' I have given my Word to that fair Lady, to sa-
 ' tisfy hers whenever she pleases.' ' It should be
 ' now, Madam, *reply'd* Philonice, if I was not ob-
 ' liged to take my Leave of you for the remaining
 ' Part of this Day, for fear the King of Monsters,
 ' who sometimes comes to see if I perform my
 ' Duty, should find me absent, and should abridge
 ' me of the Liberty I have. For you, generous
 ' Prince, *added she*, stay here with the charming
 ' *Melicerta*, and quitting your Disguise, shew her
 ' you are deserving of her Esteem; while my dear
 ' *Elisa*, throwing off her Metamorphosis likewise,
 ' informs this beautiful Lady, by relating my His-
 ' tory, that she is not the only miserable Person.'
 ' But do you think, my Princess, *said* Anaxander,
 ' that I can part with you so soon; that satisfy'd
 ' with having seen you but a Moment, I have not
 ' a thousand Things to say to you?' ' At Night'
 ' *reply'd* Philonice, I'll come and hear them all;
 ' but be so complaisant to me, my *Anaxander*, as
 ' not to shew yourself before my *Argus*, the Emo-
 ' tion he would see in my Countenance would in-
 ' form him what we have so much Reason to con-
 ' ceal.'

After these Arguments she left him, and got but
 just in Time upon the Rock, before the frightful
 King appear'd. ' You are very gay To-day, *Philo-
 ' nice*, *said he*, I see none of those Tears on your
 ' Face, as usual; your Punishment begins either to
 ' be easy to you, or else you intend to consent to
 ' marry me. Speak, *continu'd he*, *sweetning her with
 ' fair Words*; I am yet inclin'd to receive you;
 ' but take Care how you provoke me by a Refusal,
 ' for what you have hitherto undergone, is nothing
 ' to be compared with what you must suffer, if you
 ' deny me.' The Princess shudder'd at this Dis-
 ' course, but at last told him plainly, that she must
 now yield to so much Constancy, and desired but

224 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

till the Return of the new Moon to offer up a Sacrifice to that Goddess. The Monster very well satisfy'd, answer'd, that he would grant it her, provided she would not deceive him, though a Month seem'd too long for his Impatience ; and in the mean Time would go tell the Fairies, and order his Subjects to prepare all Things for a magnificent Solemnization of his Nuptials. As soon as he was gone, the Princess had a great Mind to have returned to *Uphidamentus's* Tomb ; but fearing he might come again that Day, staid till it was Night. When she went into the Room, *Elisa* had just finish'd her History. *Melicerta* express'd how much she interest'd herself in her Troubles ; and the Prince told her a hundred Times, in Transports never felt by any Lover besides him, that he had much ado to support her Absence, desiring her for the future to exact no more such cruel Proofs of Obedience. The Princess answer'd his Passion with great Tenderness ; and afterwards addressing herself to *Melicerta*, said, ' It is your Turn now, Madam, to gratify my Curiosity, when I can listen to you without the Dread of being disturb'd by my cruel Tyrant.' *Melicerta* told the Princess her Request was very just ; and to lose no more Time began as follows.



The History of the Princess Melicerta.

I Am the Daughter, Madam, said she, of a sovereign Prince below the *Rhine*. I have two Brothers, who signaliz'd their Courage in a War which has been carried on by almost all *Europe*, against the King of this Country ; who, to the Shame of so many crown'd Heads, is not to be conquer'd, whatever Forces they bring against him. While my
Father

History of the Princess Melicerta. 225

Father and Brothers were employ'd in defending their Dominions against the Conquest of this victorious Prince, I was brought up under my Mother with all imaginable Care, and wanted no Education to make me an accomplish'd Princess. When the Campaign was finish'd, and the Warriors were return'd Home, the Fame of the small Stock of Beauty with which Heaven had blest me, brought almost all the young Lords and Princes to my Father's Court : But of all the Princes, *Urbidementus* so much excell'd the rest, that I could not help entertaining a secret Inclination for him. All his Actions were graceful beyond every Thing I had seen; and from the extraordinary Ardour and Respect with which he always address'd himself to me, I soon found that his Heart was touch'd with a most violent Passion. And that he might not discover the advantageous Sentiments I had of him, I avoided the giving him any Opportunities of a Declaration.

In this Constraint the Winter was spent, and the Spring calling the Armies again into the Field, I could not prevent, in his taking his Leave, his perceiving some Emotions of my Heart. But with what Transports of Joy did he receive those Marks of my Tenderness ! He made a thousand Protections of loving me eternally; and would never have given over repeating them, but that he was told my Father and Brothers waited for him to be gone. And I was so happy in this Affair, that the Absence of so many near Relations gave me an Opportunity of concealing the mortal Grief I was in for his Departure. I spent all that Summer in the most insupportable Uneasiness ; and had not Winter approaching calm'd my Troubles, I could not have borne them. Upon Advice of my Father's Return, my Mother and I went a great Way to meet them; and after the Prince had saluted my Mother, he came to me with an Eagerness that was observed by all the Court, and all the Way in our Return to

226 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

Court, rid by my Coach-side, and said all the tender Things his Passion could suggest, which I heard with the utmost Pleasure : Besides, he appear'd so much more amiable, that my Heart could not deny the Conquest he had made.

In this tender Conversation we arrived at the Palace, and from that Time every Day increased our Loves ; and the Prince knowing himself to be Master of a very plentiful Fortune, ask'd me Leave to demand me of my Father ; which I readily gave him. Unwilling to defer his Happiness any longer, he went directly to my Father who received him very handsomely ; and tho' he promis'd me to him, yet would not consent that we should be married before a Peace, alledging, That it would not look well for a Soldier to solemnize Nuptials when all Europe groan'd under the Burden of an heavy War. *Uphidamentus* came and told me his Answer, and complain'd hard, to find his private Happiness must depend on the publick Good ; while I endeavour'd to persuade him that the Reasons my Father gave were very just.

From that Day we spent our Time the most pleasantly in the World : We saw each other almost every Hour ; and should have been happy if that Time had always been. But, alas ! the Spring return'd again, and we must part ! It is impossible to express our Grievs. For my Part, when I heard of the Orders given out for taking the Field, I fell in a Swoon upon my Bed, while my Brothers took *Uphidamentus* out of my Chamber. Alas ! we both in a Manner divin'd at what happen'd, and had a secret Foresight that our Absence would be attended with Death. After my Swoon I fell into a violent Fever, which in a few Days brought me to Death's Door. My Mother was inconsolable, and never left me a Moment, till by the Strength of Youth and good Remedies I recover'd. When I was able to go Abroad, I ask'd my Mother to go to a County,
Seat,

History of the Princess Melicerta: 227

Seat, some Leagues distant from the Town; where I spent my Time in thinking on *Uphidamentus*, and counted the Days, Hours, and Minutes, when I should see him again. One Day, after Dinner, when my Thoughts were more employ'd than ordinary on my Tenderness, I took a Walk into an adjacent Forest, and walking musing in a pleasant Path, which was somewhat dark, and the more agreeable to the Humour I was in, went farther than I thought; and finding myself weary, sat down under a Tree, and fell asleep. But, O Heavens! how confus'd was I when I awaken'd, and found myself in a frightful Den, and your Tyrant, attended with the Fairy *Rancour*, and her Sisters *Envy* and *Cruelty*, standing by me! I could not tell what to think, whether I was among the Living or the Dead; and just as I was going to ask, the Fairy *Rancour* said to me, ' Bless Heaven, *Melicerta*, that
' for thy good Fortune we happen'd to pass thro' the
' Forests where thou wert lain a sleep: Thy Beauty
' surpriz'd the King of Monsters; and he was so much
' struck with thy Charms, that we immediately took
' thee away, to make thee Queen of all that mighty
' King possesses. Accept of so great an Honour as
' thou oughtest to do, and by thy Obedience merit
' our Friendship.' ' I thought, *said I*, I ow'd no Obedience to any but my Parents, and cannot comprehend what Right you have to command over me, nor what Justice there is in what you have done by me.' ' We have no Regulation of our Actions but our Wills, *said Rancour*: All the World knows our Power; and happy are they who like you find Favour in our Eyes; which, if you are wise, you will make a good Use of, or dread our Anger.' ' Why, what can you do worse to me, *reply'd I*, than to force me away from my Parents, to give me to an execrable Monster? Either give me my Liberty, or take away my Life.' ' Go, *said the one-eyed Monster*, don't trouble your
self

228 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

' selves about the Reluctancy she shews ; leave me alone with her, I know how to reduce her to Obedience.' ' Ah ! Madam, cry'd I, *throwing myself at Rancour's Feet*, if ever you were sensible of Pity, leave me not with your King, for I shall certainly die, if you do.' The Fairy relenting at my Grief, tho' the first Time she ever did in her Life, told the Monster she would take care to dispose me to obey him. The King consented, and I was put into *Rancour's Hands*, who carried me to the Fairy Abode, where she shew'd me all the Beauties of that Place. After that she conducted me to her Pavilion, which, as you know, stands just by the great Grove, and is very rich in Gold and Jewels, and gave me magnificent Habits, and neglected nothing to make me forget the Injury done me. But all this Usage could not dry up my Tears: My Absence from my Father and Mother afflicted me very sensibly, and the Idea of never seeing *Uphidamentus* more, made me almost distracted.

In the mean Time the King of Monsters was impatient to see that I was not disposed to marry him ; and *Rancour* weary of a Softness, so contrary to her Nature, told me one Day, that I abused their Goodness ; that I must think of conforming to their Will, or prepare for the most cruel Punishment. Neither my Tears nor Sighs could move her enraged Spirit, but away she hurried me to this curs'd Place ; and abandoning me to my Despair, left me rather dead than alive. When she was going, I call'd after her and said, ' Why, Madam, will you force me to marry the King of Monsters, since I am promis'd to *Uphidamentus* ? And you know I ought not to break my Vows.' *Rancour* had no Relish of my Excuses, but without hearing me any longer, left me with this wicked Tyrant, who is a thousand Times more cruel than frightful ; and after she was gone, I fainted away. When I came to my self,

which

History of Princess Melicerta. 229

which was without any Assistance from him, he told me, that I did not deserve that he should take any Care of me; that he would not marry me, for that the Fairies had provided a beautiful young Princess for him, (which, Madam, was undoubtedly your self;) but that notwithstanding I should not be the more happy, for since I was so fond of *Uphidamentus*, he would fetch him to partake of my Punishments. In this and such like Conversation we spent that horrible Night together; and as soon as the Morning appear'd, *Rancour* came to us, and bid me in a severe Manner follow her, which I did trembling, till we came to this horrid Cave, where I saw this Coffin cover'd with a black Cloth, which she took off, and shew'd me *Uphidamentus* dead. Never was Grief equal to mine at this dismal Sight! I said and did all that the most violent Love could inspire, and would willingly have died with this dear Object of my Tenderness. The deplorable State I was in at the Sight of this unhappy Prince, would have melted the most strong Heart, but that of this cruel Fairy, who, as if by what she had done, she had given me some Comfort, put down the black Cloth again, and taking two or three Turns about the Coffin went away, telling me in a sarcastical Way, that I ought to be satisfy'd, since she left me with him I lov'd. As soon as ever her back was turn'd, I ran to lift up the Coffin-Lid: But, O Heavens! how much amaz'd was I to find it fasten'd! Upon which I redoubled my Tears. But when I heard my *Uphidamentus* sigh from within, judge of my Despair! I made the most incredible Efforts to open the Coffin, and call'd both Gods and Men to my Assistance, but all in vain. Then again hearing nothing stir, I believ'd my dear Spouse was stified. In these cruel Agitations I pass'd the whole Night almost distracted. And when again my Ears were struck with the same sighing, I ran to the Coffin, but with the same Success. From that fatal

Time

230 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

Time I have never fail'd hearing him sigh and moan just at the same Hour ; and always forgetting that it is not in my Power to help him, yet I strive to open the Coffin, as you saw me.

Here *Melicerta*, almost drown'd in Tears and Grief, made an End of her Story. *Philonice*, the Prince, and *Elisa*, did what they could to comfort her, and make her hope her Misfortunes would soon have an End: But the Sighings beginning as usual, she ran to the Coffin with the same Eagerness as before, not regarding what those amiable Persons said to her. In the mean Time, the King of the Monsters return'd from giving his Orders to the Fairies to prepare every Thing to celebrate his Marriage with *Philonice*, to tell her that no Solemnity had ever appeared so noble in the Kingdom of Fairies as his Wedding should, and withal to conduct her to a magnificent Apartment he had provided for her till that Day came ; and amaz'd not to find her there, look'd about to see which Way the Chain might direct him, and follow'd her into the Cave just as *Uphidamentus's* Sighings ceased. Alas ! how inexpressible was the Fright our Lovers were in ! They stood perfectly motionless, while the King of Monsters loaded *Philonice* with injurious and opprobrious Language ; but to pass that by, and come to Facts, he took her by the Arm, and by Force pulled her out of the Cave. *Anaxander* attempted to rescue the Princess, when the Monster looking on him scornfully, said, ' Learn, rash Youth, to know thy Strength ; and to increase this false Creature's Punishment, come and partake Torments with her.' At the same Time *Anaxander* found himself bound by the same Chain that *Philonice* was fasten'd to, and forced to follow that monstrous Tyrant as well as she ; and tho' he was in the utmost Despair, that he could not deliver her, yet he had some Comfort in bearing the same Chains, and in that
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Tyranny of the Fairies destroy'd. 233

miserable Condition follow'd her to a dark Prison. Poor *Elisa*, she was inconsolable, *Melicerta* increas'd her briny Tears, and the unhappy *Ubbidamentus*, by new Complaints, shew'd how sensible he was of their Misfortunes. After this the King of Monsters told the Fairies the News, who were assembled from all Parts of the World to be present at this Marriage, and had all prepared Gifts for the Bride. They were all very much surpriz'd; and every one, to shew their Zeal for their King, were for contriving the most rigorous Punishments for *Philonice* and her Lover; till the King thanking them, said, That he believ'd he had thought of one which would be severe enough, which was to marry her, and to put *Anaxander* to Death that Day before her Face. The Fairies all applauded his just Revenge, and promis'd to be present at the Execution of so horrible a Piece of Cruelty; and the next Day the barbarous Tyrant went to tell those illustrious, but unfortunate Lovers, the Sentence he had pronounced against them. But what Grief can be compared to what they both endur'd? 'Ah! how transported should I be, said *Anaxander*, if by my Death I could make *Philonice* happy: But to leave her a Prey to the most horrible Monster in Nature, racks me more than a thousand Deaths.' 'And, alas! Prince, said the sorrowful Princess, if he would but spare your Life, I'd marry him freely; but, oh! the wicked Tyrant knows your Death to be my greatest Pain.'

In these and such like mutual Complaints they spent the Night, and as soon as Day appear'd, the Fairies *Rancour*, *Cruelty*, and *Envy*, came with their King to carry *Philonice* to the Palace, and from thence, regardless of the Prayers and Entreaties she made to them to save *Anaxander's* Life, conducted her to the Temple, where a Scaffold was rais'd, and the Prince, tied to a Post, was ready to be sacrificed. What a horrid Spectacle was this

232 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

to the tender *Philonice* ! She cast herself at the Tyrant's Feet, and with a Deluge of Tears begg'd once more, that he would spare the Prince's Life, unless he would with the same Stroke take hers too. But he was as deaf now as before, and the deadly Knife was lifted up, when a Clap of Thunder, attended with Lightning, made the Temple shake, and sounding Trumpets pierced the Monster's and Fairies Ears, who all ran to the Temple Gates to see what was the Matter ; when the Fairy *Serpenta* coming in Haste, cry'd, ' Courage, *Philonice*, ' your Misfortunes are ended, the divine Princess, ' foretold by the Oracles, is coming to punish my ' barbarous Sisters for all their Crimes.' All the Fairies trembled at this News, and were running away, but were stopp'd by the Presence of that august Princess, who appear'd with so majestick a Beauty, that it was a Punishment to the Fairies to look at her : ' Go, hateful Monsters, *said she, in a* ' *threatning Voice*, undergo the Punishments you deserve, which shall be as lasting as the World. ' Go, and prepare by you magick Arts, the Instruments of your own Punishments, that all those ' illustrious Persons whom you have made miserable, may acknowledge the Goodness of Heaven ' in punishing you for your Crimes. Go, *said the* ' *enrag'd Princess*, and like the *Danaides*, work without End.'

The Princess had no sooner pronounced this Sentence, but the King of Monsters, and all the Fairies, ran howling and crying to the River, and working to prepare their own Punishments, fix'd great Beams in the Midst of the River, to which they fasten'd large Wheels, with which they drew up Buckets of Water, Night and Day, into great Cisterns, which supply'd the Water-Works in those enchanted Gardens. From thence they sent forth such bitter Shrieks and Lamentations at this new Torment, that they disturbed the Neighbourhood,
and

History of the Princess Melicerta. 233

and reach'd the Princess's Ears, while she was unloosing *Anaxander*, who with *Philonice* threw himself at her Feet, to thank her for his Life. The Princess rais'd them both up with her natural Bounty, and turning about to *Serpenta*, said, taking *Philonice* by the Hand, 'Go, *Serpenta*, and conduct us to the Palace: I know you never contributed to the Mischiefs your wicked Sisters have done, therefore I esteem you, and shall keep you to embellish by your Art, this pleasant Abode for the greatest King in the World, who after he has given Peace to *Europe*, will come to repose himself after his great Toils in these charming Gardens. Find out new Inventions every Day to please him, and add to Nature all that the Fairy Art is capable of performing. But above all, that none may be unhappy in this Abode of Pleasures, go afterwards, prudent *Serpenta*, and deliver all those innocent Victims from their Enchantments, and bring them to me.'

After this she went, attended by *Philonice*, *Anaxander*, and all her Court, to the Palace, where she profess'd a great Friendship for the Princess, while all her Retinue gazed on her Beauty with Admiration, and were charm'd with her graceful Mien. In the mean Time *Serpenta* return'd, leading *Cleonice*, follow'd by her dear Dragon, and presented her to the Princess, and after telling her that she deserv'd her Protection, related all her Misfortunes; which rais'd so much Pity in the Breast of the beneficent Princess, that, unwilling to defer her Happiness any longer, touch'd *Philoxipus*, who immediately quitting that terrible Form, appear'd the same as when he gain'd his charming Spouse's Heart; who was so overjoy'd, that if *Philonice* had not supported her, she had fainted in that Extasy. After them came the two Turtles, who recovering their former Shapes, thank'd the divine Princess, and shew'd her, by their polite Manner of Address and paying
the

234 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

their Compliments, that they were not unworthy the Relief Heaven had sent them. At the same Time the Statues on the Terrass, reanimated with the same Life the malicious Fairies had taken, came and made the Hall ring again with the Praises they bestow'd on the Princess. But in the Midst of all this Joy, *Melicerta* was absent as well as the friendly *Elisa*, who was not suffer'd by the King of Monsters to follow *Philonice*, and who were both ignorant of this surprizing Change, and pour'd forth Torrents of salt Tears. But when *Serpenta* told the Princess, that *Uphidamentus's* Enchantment could not be destroy'd but by her Presence, she hasten'd to the rocky Cave just when they, thro' Despair, had relinquish'd all Hopes. So melancholly and beautiful a Subject, so lively affected the great Princess's Compassion, that without the least Delay, she ran and uncover'd the Coffin in which *Uphidamentus* lay, who at the same Instant rose and got out. But if *Melicerta* and *Elisa* were astonish'd to see the Princess, how much more surprized were they to see *Uphidamentus* alive? *Melicerta*, without regarding who had deliver'd him from the Fetters of cold Death, ran and embrac'd the dear Object of her Tenderness, while *Elisa* did the same to *Philonice*; but at last reflecting on, and ashamed of their ill Conduct, they went and ask'd their kind Benefactress's Pardon, who, never weary of doing good, ask'd *Serpenta* if any more Unfortunate stood in need of her Assistance. The Fairy told her, none could be unhappy wherever she was, and that she had done enough for that Time. 'Come then, said the Princess, let us go taste the Sweets of that Repose we want, and leave this Place, which cannot be over-agreeable to *Melicerta*.'

After these Words, they all left that horrible Den, and return'd to the Palace, where, persuaded that they had nothing more to fear, they enjoy'd a perfect Happiness. When it grew late in the Evening,

Tyranny of the Fairies destroy'd. 235

Evening, they all took their Leaves of the Princess, and retir'd to their Apartments, where they had the more Liberty of discoursing in private, and tasted so much Pleasure in entertaining each other on their Loves, that the Night, in respect to those they had spent so sorrowfully before, was gone before they could well tell where they were. Above all, *Melicerta* could not forbear asking *Upbidamentus*, how he was convey'd into that Coffin, and how he lived in it so long without being stifled. 'I cannot tell you, charming *Melicerta*, said he, by what Enchantment I lived and died every Day since that fatal Time I return'd from making a Campaign; but you may easily judge of my Despair when I lost you: I retired to my own Apartment, resolv'd never to see my Country more till I had found you, and with these Thoughts went to Bed, and without knowing how I was transported in that Coffin in which you found me, I awaken'd every Day just as if it had been out of a deep Sleep, found myself confin'd in that Abode of the Dead, endeavour'd to get out, sigh'd, heard you, and then falling again into my former Lethargy, became insensible. You know as well as me how long the Time was, and all I can tell you, is, that my Heart ever burnt with the same Flame that your bright Eyes first kindled.'

Upbidamentus here finish'd his Discourse, and *Melicerta* having told him that it grew late, he retir'd, as did also all the other Lovers. The next Morning the Fairy *Serpenta* prepar'd magnificent Habits cover'd over with Gold and Jewels, for the adorable Princess, which she accepted of very favourably, and mounting a triumphal Chariot, which the Fairy had also provided for her at the Palace-Gates, went, attended by these illustrious Slaves, to meet the victorious King, to whom he presented all those charming Persons, and whom he received with an Air of Grandeur and Sweetness natural

236 *The Tales of the FAIRIES.*

to him. He was surprized at the Sight of so many Beauties, especially with *Philonice's*, and was besides so much taken with the good Mien of her Lover, that he wish'd he would but reside at his Court; and the Sovereign Princess taking as great a Fancy to *Philonice*, told her that Night, how that she could not resolve to part with her. *Philonice* made answer, that she was too happy in being prevented by her Goodness from attaching herself to her; that she had been inform'd by *Serpenta* that her Mother was dead, and in that Misfortune nothing could comfort her, but the dedicating her Life to her Service, and therefore she might always command her.

In the mean Time great Preparations were making to solemnize the Sovereign Princess's Nuptials, than which none were ever more magnificent and gallant. All the Princes shew'd their Address in Tournaments and Horse-Races; and the Princesses were dress'd so richly, and in such Variety of beautiful Colours, as shew'd the Judgment of the Fairy *Serpenta*. But among all these Beauties, the lovely Princess's Charms were so piercing, that none could look on her without Admiration. After this Feast was over, which lasted nine Days, in which there was shewn all the Grandeur that a powerful Monarch and a skilful Fairy were capable of setting forth, *Uphidamentus* taking upon him to pay the Compliment of all the Princes, as *Melicerta* did for the Princesses, told the happy Bride and Bridegroom, that they should always preserve a living Remembrance of all their Favours, and so took their Leaves. The Fairy *Serpenta*, that nothing might be wanting on her Part, provided Equipages suitable to all their Births, and in her Adieu promised them an eternal Friendship. But when *Philonice*, *Melicerta*, and *Cleonice*, came to part, a Flood of Tears poured down from their Eyes, tho' the last had not far to go. In short, they all embrac'd

Tyranny of the Fairies destroy'd. 237

brac'd with great Love and a sincere Friendship, and in a little Time arriv'd, without any ill Accident, in their Principalities, and gave new Joy to their Subjects by their Presence.

Philonice and the kind *Elisa* staid behind with the Princess. *Anaxander*, prompted by his Love, ask'd a Recompence with so much Ardour, that *Philonice* could not refuse him; their Marriage was honour'd by the Presence of the King and Queen; and the Fairy doating on that lovely Person, crown'd her with all the Gifts she was Mistress of. *Anaxander*, pleas'd with his happy Fate, and serving so great a King, perform'd all the Duties of a tender Husband, and preserv'd a growing Passion.

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